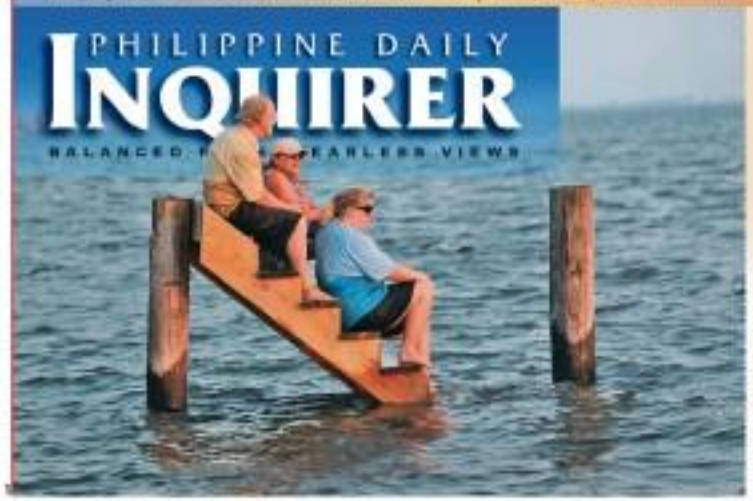
Tuesday, August 30, 2011 ★★ 6 sections / Vol. 26 / No. 261 P18 | www.inquirer.net | Mobile Alert:

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED, [illegible] FEARLESS VIEWS



BUILT IN 1921 Ollie Stinson, his wife Sandra and daughter Erin sit on the steps where their cottage once stood before it was destroyed by Hurricane "Irene" on Sunday. The cottage, built in 1921, was one of the first vacation cottages built on Albemarle Sound in Hogg Road, North Carolina. Stinson has owned the home, which is listed in the National Register of Historic Places, since 1983. "We were pretending, just for a moment, that the cottage was still behind us and we were just sitting there watching the sunset," Erin said.

New Yorkers gripe against hurricane hype

NEW YORK—On Saturday, when the word was that Hurricane "Irene" had hit New York City in its sights, Mike Fenton was proud of himself. "I bought the last loaf of bread on the West Side."

On Sunday, after the storm had dished out something less than a knockout punch to the city, his mood had changed. "The two hours he had spent going to three grocery stores to find the bread? He really did not want to talk about it.

"With all the preparations and all the hoopla on TV, it was all for naught," he said. "I feel as if we fell for it."

The city government spent days

BOOK REVIEWS, A-11

P-Noy: Alvarez is out

BOC chief bares big port scam in last hurrah

By Christine O. Avendaño and Philip C. Tubeza

PRESIDENT AQUINO has finally shown Customs Commissioner Angelito Alvarez the door but the official is not leaving without a bang.

Shortly after Mr. Aquino confirmed yesterday that he had picked a new customs chief, Alvarez said he had uncovered a huge "scam" involving the smuggling last year of more than 1,600 shipping containers purportedly to raise election campaign funds for the ruling administration.

Alvarez said the government lost hundreds of millions of pesos in the clandestine operation.

Mr. Aquino refused to say who Alvarez's replacement would be, saying only that the person he had chosen had accepted the job and that he had promised the incoming chief of the Bureau of Customs (BOC) a free days "of quiet" before releasing his name.

Malacañang's confirmation that Alvarez would be leaving came on the eve of the President's departure for a five-day state visit to China and six days after the Inocian reported that

DAILY, A4

HONORING HEROES President Aquino walks behind soldiers carrying flowers for Monday's wreath-laying ceremony commemorating National Heroes Day at the Tomb of Unknown Soldier (Libingan ng mga Bayani) in Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City.

Public warned fiercer storms to batter PH

By Kristine L. Alave and Inquirer Northern Luzon

AS SUPERTYPHOON "Maue" closed the month of August with a death toll of 15 in its deadly onslaught across northern Luzon over the weekend, the weather office yesterday warned that storms with similar intensity could whip the country in the so-called "ber" months.

Nathaniel Servando, administrator of the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa), said the country had entered a period of more potent

PUBLIC, A-11

.5-M desks eyed for public school pupils

By Tarra Quismundo

MINUS years before her death, Corazon Aquino started to build yet another legacy in the spirit of people power.

Six Filipino students based another year of learning under a tree instead of a classroom, on the floor instead of seated on a chair, the former President gathered business leaders to find a solution.

The response was a project that brought close to 24,000 school desks to some 320 public schools from 2002 to 2007.

Last week, the Stony and Goy Aquino Foundation (SGAF) and the Philippine Business for Social Progress (PBSP) revived the program as lack of resources continued to hobble the country's public schools.

"I am sure you have made mom very happy again," Viel Aquino Dee, an Aquino daughter and now SGAF trustee,

A-10 STORIES, A-11

Noli liable in Pag-Ibig mess—Serge O

MEMBERS OF the previous board of the Home Development Mutual Fund, also known as Pag-Ibig Fund, led by then Vice President Noli de Castro could be liable for the questionable multibillion-peso loans obtained by Globe Asiatique Realty Holdings Corp.

Sen. Serge Osmeña III said the Senate blue ribbon committee headed by Senator Teofisto Guingona III would have been unable to obtain

NOLI, A-11

RAMON MAGSAYSAY AWARDEES

Indon educator empowers women

By Jaymee T. Gamil

IT IS hard to imagine that this quiet-voiced man, laughing sheepishly at his own halting English, could face up to the local governor in his hometown in Indonesia and demand public service.

"There are your people!" he told the governor, pressing him for financial help for an Islamic boarding school for girls in the interior island of Lombok near Bali.

But then again, educator Hasanain Juaini—one of this year's winners of the Ramon

MEDIA, A-14

HASANAIN JUAINI

HARISH MANDE

Indian puts solar power technology in hands of poor

By Kristine Felisse Mangunay

"GO NOT look at the poor as the bottom of the pyramid market from where you can extract money. How do you help them? How do you help them create value?"

These questions had nagged Harish Hande, one of this year's recipients of the Ramon Magsaysay Awards, since completing energy engineering studies in the first of hers.

BUSINESS, A-14

LIFESTYLE
The running crowd is growing—at cocktail hour / C1

NEWS
Aquino opens China visit today; talks to focus on trade / A2

NEWS
Nurses assail scrapping of oathtaking / A5

ENTERTAINMENT
Inquirer columnist reelected to Golden Globes body/ E5

WEATHER FORECAST

Second FRONTPAGE

EZ2 — FOUR DIGIT — 6/45 GRAND LOTTO — SUERTRES

P-Noy lauds, vows to aid soldiers

By Christine O. Avendaño

CALLING them unrecognized heroes, President Aquino yesterday lauded veteran soldiers and those on active duty for serving the country well. He also promised to look after their welfare.

In a speech marking National Heroes Day at the Libingan ng Bayani in Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City, Mr. Aquino cautioned the soldiers for playing a big role in ensuring the peace and order in the country. He also paid tribute to those who had given up their lives in the service of the country.

"In our gathering today, it's only right that we emphasize and praise their heroism," the President said in Filipino, thanking the military men for doing their duty and sacrificing their lives for the people.

This year's theme of the heroes day celebration was "Bayanihan ng Bayani, Gabay at Aruga sa Mga Sundalo," which according to the organizers highlights the importance we give to our heroes who struggled for our democracy.

In his speech, the President also thanked the soldiers for being the partners of the government in its bid to take the country down the right path.

"The government is behind you to help and respond to your needs," he said.

The President said that through the Philippine Veterans Affairs Office, the government had improved the health services for veterans by accrediting them with almost 200 hospitals. He promised more government programs for their benefit.

As for the soldiers on active duty, Mr. Aquino said the government was doing its best to provide them with skills and the equipment necessary to improve their capabilities.

"We are trying to make good our claim that wherever any Filipino soldier he is known and respected by the whole world," he said.

President Aquino also said he was taking the opportunity to talk to civilians to help the government achieve change for the betterment of the nation.

"I am ready to be the first to sacrifice," he said, but added that he could not do this alone.

"The country doesn't need a superman to resolve all our problems. What we need is the heroism of Juan and Juana de la Cruz. We need to take part in solving the problems," the President said.

It is in these instances that "a true hero...those who are not asking to be strong, cannot tolerate, and who stand by their principles even if no one knows...is born."

Pacquiao, boat team among heroes cited

[illegible] champion and [illegible] Rep. Manny Pacquiao and members of the Philippine Dragon Boat Team were among the 94 [illegible] honored by the Philippine Army in this year's commemoration of National Heroes Day.

Pacquiao and the "Pinoy Dragon Warriors" joined peacekeepers, Medal of Valor awardees and veterans who fought in World War II and the Korean War who were hailed by the army.

"In today's celebrations of National Heroes Day the Philippine Army recognizes not only heroes in combat, but also contemporary heroes in the field of sports, the arts and sciences who have brought honor to the country," said Army spokesperson Lt. Col. Antonio Parlade Jr.

An Army reservist, Pacquiao holds the rank of senior master sergeant, the highest rank for a reservist without college degree.

The Army also praised the Dragon Boat team which was stripped of its national team status but went on to win in the various world championships held in the United States while competing as a private team.

The 11 soldiers on the team were awarded Military Merit Medals.

The Army also honored Filipino soldiers serving as United Nations peacekeepers in various conflict areas such as Syria, Haiti and Liberia.

Of the 25 Army recipients of the military's highest honor, the Medal of Valor, 11 are still in the active service, among them, Army chief Lt. Gen. Jessie Dello.

Ortiz received the Medal of Valor for his leadership of the rescue of the 600th Special Forces Company and paramilitary troops who fought 300 communist guerrillas in a rebel camp in Sitio Sta. Negros Candelaria, on April 6, 1990.

The Army also cited Sergeant Major Gonzalo Sip who served with the 14th Battalion Combat Team of the Philippine Expeditionary Force to Korea.

Story continues on page A2

'Sea spat small part of China visit'

By Norman Bordadora

BEIJING—As indicated by both Philippine and Chinese diplomats, the territorial dispute over the West Philippine Sea (South China Sea) would only be a small part of the agenda when President Aquino meets with Chinese leaders and businessmen during his four-day state visit.

Mr. Aquino is expected to have one-on-one and other bilateral cooperation, and make a pitch for up to $60 billion worth of investments in oil and gas exploration, railways, shipbuilding, mining, airlines, among others, during the series of meetings with government and business officials scheduled in Beijing, Shanghai and Xiamen.

Alex Chua, charge d'affaires at the Philippine Embassy here, said it was important for the Philippines as neighbors to live with China, especially because of [illegible] between its traditional Western financial markets. Under these circumstances, economic growth is expected to be sustained by strong emerging economies like China and India.

China, the country's third largest trading partner, is now the fifth biggest source of foreign investments worldwide, according to the United Nations World Investment Survey.

Mr. Aquino, with several members of his Cabinet and 270 business leaders in tow, is scheduled to arrive tonight at the Beijing Capital Airport on board a Philippine Air lines special commercial flight PR881. He is expected to stay at the Diaoyutai State Guesthouse.

Foreign Secretary Albert del Rosario, Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima, Trade Secretary Gregory Domingo, Transportation Secretary Mar Roxas and presidential spokesperson Edwin Lacierda are among the Cabinet members expected to join Mr. Aquino on the trip.

The President begins his busy schedule on Wednesday with meetings with several groups of Chinese businessmen in the power sector at the China World Hotel.

Watch said in early August that several Chinese firms, including Chinese Petroleum Corp., Metro Pacific Investments Corp. and Ayala Corp., were interested in investing in 15 oil and gas exploration contracts worth at least $7.3 billion.

President Aquino will also meet with Vice Premier Wang Qishan before he delivers the keynote speech at the Philippines-China Economic and Trade Forum.

President Aquino will then be officially welcomed by Chinese President Hu Jintao at the Great Hall of the People. The two leaders will hold bilateral talks and are expected to sign several agreements in the fields of trade, economic and technical cooperation, media, sports, culture and information.

In the evening, Pres. will host a state banquet at the Great Hall in honor of President Aquino.

During his stay in Beijing, the President will also meet with the more than 2,000 Filipinos based in the city and nearby areas. He also has scheduled sightseeing stops at the Great Wall of China and the Forbidden City. With reports from Gil Cabacungan, Amy Oliparnada, and Reuters

Genuino asks SC to lift hold order

By Marlon Ramos

FORMER Philippine Gaming and Amusement Corp. (Pagcor) chair Ellenn Genuino has asked the Supreme Court to nullify the hold departure order (HDO) imposed by Justice Secretary Leila de Lima on him and his two children in connection with criminal complaints they are facing in the Department of Justice (DOJ).

Apparently emboldened by the favorable response former first gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo received from the high court, Genuino petitioned the tribunal to declare as unconstitutional DOJ Circular 41 that formed the basis for preventing him, his son Dennis and daughter Sheryl from leaving the country.

He also asked the court to issue a temporary restraining order blocking the implementation of De Lima's directive.

Circular 41 was signed by Justice Secretary Alberto Agra during the Arroyo administration.

In his petition for certiorari and prohibition dated Aug. 23, Genuino accused De Lima of arbitrarily issuing the hold order without giving him and his children a chance to challenge it, thus, violating their right to due process.

"The circular is an exercise of arbitrary power, authoring to editor to the injury of the persons and property of the citizens," Genuino said in his 27-page petition.

"The circular is a tool for abuse as an HDO can be issued on the mere filing of a criminal complaint even in the absence of a finding of probable cause or a showing that there exists a threat to national security, public health or public safety," Genuino said.

The motion Pagcor board has filed, among others, a plunder case against Genuino for allegedly funneling P3.06 million of the state-owned gaming agency's funds to bolster the unsuccessful election bid of the Nida party-list group in the 2010 elections.

The group had Genuino's daughter Sheryl for its first nominee.

Zaldy offered to help US fight terror—cable

MISLEADS, the online whistleblower, has released a 2006 cable from the United States Embassy in Manila which said that the former governor of the autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM), multiple-murder suspect Zaldy Ampatuan, had offered to help the US "combat terrorism."

In an April 27, 2006, cable to the Department of State, then US Ambassador to the Philippines Kristie Kenney said Ampatuan had also asked the US to give "special attention" and continued support to Maguindanao province.

The one-hour meeting took place three years before the Maguindanao massacre, the worst case of political terrorism in the country that left 57 civilians dead. Members of the Ampatuan family are the main suspects.

Kenney, now the US envoy to Thailand, also furnished the Intelligence, National Security Council, the US Department of Agriculture and the Honolulu-based US Pacific Command copies of the unclassified memo.

The Ampatuans are currently detained at Camp Siapng Diwa in Taguig City.

In his April 2006 meeting with Kenney, Zaldy Ampatuan also sought Kenney's support in securing more World Bank funding for the region's Land Administration Management Program.

The ARMM governor "expressed appreciation for US government assistance in the ARMM and requested the continuation—and, were appropriate—of those various programs," which he said had contributed significantly to growing peace and development in the ARMM."

It was Kenney's view that "Governor Ampatuan's initiative in reaching out to the military is a good sign that [the US-ARMM] relationship will promote further peace and development throughout Mindanao and the Sulu archipelago."

"The high-level nature of his delegation reflects the vital importance with which ARMM officials view the role of the US government in promoting peace and development in the ARMM," said Kenney in the memo.

The US embassy said it does not comment on supposedly leaked documents from the source. Jerry E. Esplanada

Binay greets Muslims

THE 19th of the month is a "time to foster unity and peace," according to Vice President Jejomar Binay.

In a statement, Binay expressed the hope this year's observance would finally forge a peace agreement with the government between Moro Islamic Liberation Front to "finally put an end to years of conflict and bloodshed."

"I am with you in praying for the best interest of our ummah. It's my hope that brings us further down the path to avoid hating peace and harmony," he addressed Filipino Muslims.

"This is the time to reach out to your loved ones with warmth and wishes of blessings... I share with you the joys of the festivities that you will surely be holding with your families, friends and countrymates," he said.

"Eid Mubarak to our Muslim brothers and sisters all over the country," he said. Jerry E. Esplanada

WANTED TO BUY
OLD HENNESSY XO
(50 years + 50 years)
(02) 984-1721

JOR
JOR

4 more GMA allies join majority

By Gil Cabacungan

FOUR allies of former President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo have jumped over to the majority coalition, leaving the minority bloc with only 26 members, or less than 10 percent of the 285-strong House of Representatives.

Three of the lawmakers, who bolted Arroyo's Lakas-Kampi-Christian Muslim Democrats, were Assistant Minority Leader and Pampanga Rep. Aurelio Gonzales Jr., and Pangasinan Reps. Amado Espino Jr. and Leopoldo N. Bataoil and Jesus Celeste.

Gonzales joined the Nacionalista Party's bloc of which his son is one of the majority bloc led by President Aquino's Liberal Party.

Another Lakas-Kampi member, La Union Rep. Victor Francisco Ortega, has joined the majority bloc but has remained with Arroyo's party.

Ortega was swornin by opposition chair of the committee on interparliamentary relations. Ortega said that as far as he knew, Lakas-Kampi had no complaints about his joining the majority bloc while remaining with the party.

Favorite contractor

Gonzales was one of Arroyo's closest associates, said to have been one of her favorite contractors during her term. Bataoil was a police general during the former administration. Celeste belongs to a powerful political family in Pangasinan.

Their departure has left the minority bloc with 26 members—including allied party-list representatives.

Pork barrel diplomacy

Quezon Rep. and Lakas-Kampi adviser Danilo Suarez said the four were approved by the majority bloc "pork barrel diplomacy" being administered by the LP through Budget Secretary Florencio Abad, who has been widely criticized for holding back releases of the P70 billion priority development assistance fund (PDAF), or pork barrel, of congressmen.

Suarez noted that the majority had even delayed the release of the pork barrel of members of their own bloc, apparently as a penalty for their refusal to vote along the House leadership's lines, such as for the impeachment of former Ombudsman Merceditas Gutierrez and the postponement of the elections in Muslim Mindanao.

Minority Leader Edcel Lagman bemoaned what he called the administration's "divide and rule" strategy in undermining the ranks of the minority by withholding the pork barrel of hard-core Arroyo loyalists or releasing part of the PDAF only for soft projects, such as the schools, feed and health projects of the minority congressmen.

Overstaying Pinoy pilgrims get amnesty

TEHRAN: who overstayed their Hajj visas after performing the pilgrimage to Mecca in Saudi Arabia last week were meant to avoid themselves of an amnesty granted by the king dom, a migrants-rights group said yesterday.

Migrants International said the royal amnesty announced on April 27, for overstaying pilgrims who arrived between Sept. 22-26, 2011, and March 23, 2012, has been extended to Sept. 14.

"Filipinos who overstayed after performing the Umrah have barely 15 days to avail themselves of the royal pardon. They will be allowed to leave Saudi Arabia without any monetary penalty and weeks of detention at the deportation center," said Migrants International Chairperson Concepcion John Leonard Monterona in a statement.

Monterona said overstaying Filipinos could proceed directly to any international airport in the kingdom and they would only be required by Saudi immigration authorities to present their passport during exits that is valid for at least six months and a return ticket and they would be allowed to leave.

"This simple procedure was confirmed to me by a Philippine embassy official when I asked him as there are a number of overstaying Filipinos asking for our assistance," Monterona said.

He said those who don't leave and are later caught face a fine of 10,000 Saudi rials (roughly P112,000) plus weeks of detention at the deportation center.

Citing reports from the National Commission on Muslim Filipinos (NCMF), Monterona said there were 700 Filipino pilgrims who flew to Saudi Arabia to perform the Hajj this year but not all of them returned to the Philippines.

"We came to know that less than a hundred of them did not leave Saudi Arabia as they were tempted to look for jobs in the kingdom," Monterona said.

The group is urging Egyptian to Mecca that may be undertaken by a Muslim. It is not compulsory and like the Hajj which is a major pilgrimage that must be undertaken at least once in a Muslim's life.

Monterona clarified that other overstaying and undocumented Filipinos— other than those who entered on the Umrah visa which allows foreigners six-month stay in the kingdom—were not covered by the scope of pardon. Philip Tubeo

OFWs trickle out of Libya

AUGUST 30 (Xinhua) Filipino workers have managed to flee Libya on the MV REGINA, a ferry chartered by the United Arab International Organization for Migration (IOM), according to the Philippine Embassy in Tripoli.

In a report to the Department of Foreign Affairs in Manila, the embassy said eight of the OFWs were road-kid staff of a hospital in Libya, which is 45 kilometers south of the Libyan capital.

On Sunday night, "Foreign Undersecretary Rafael Seguis together with embassy officials were able to successfully fetch the OFWs from the hospital... they are now on board the MV Regina en route to Benghazi," said DFA spokesperson Raul Hernandez.

From Benghazi, the OFWs will travel by land to the Egyptian border where they will be met by personnel from the Philippine Embassy in Cairo and the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (Owwa). From Cairo, the repatriates will take commercial flights to Manila.

Hernandez said that Seguis, Tuesday, Sept. and the embassy team "made a bold attempt to pick up OFWs" from their workplaces outside Tripoli.

"But when they reached the edge of town, they were advised by the rebels to go back for fear they would get hurt in the heavy fighting taking place," he said.

Hernandez said Seguis and the embassy staff would continue to make the rounds of hospitals and other workplaces of OFWs.

In Manila, the DFA's office for migrant workers' affairs has set up the following telephone numbers for the families of Filipinos feared to be trapped in Libya: (02) 834-4865 and 834-4866.

In the Syrian capital, the Philippine embassy's hotline is 0963-116-3306. Jerry E. Esplanada

Correction

IN THE AUG. 30 ISSUE, a Sunday Lifestyle article on page F4—"Songs for your sorry, sweet time"—mistaken the venue of Hungarian bass-baritone Attila Jun's recital. The concert will be held at the Chapel of the Orthodoxy Lord—not Church of the Risen Lord—at SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City.

* * *

Readers may send their requests for correction of factual errors in writing to the Star desk, Philippine Daily Inquirer, 5th floor, Philippine Daily Inquirer Building, Chino Roces Avenue corner Yague Street, Makati City, fax No. 897-07-19/24, e-mail address inquirer@inquirer.com.ph.

Complaints, opinions, suggestions or clarifications may be sent to the Publisher, e-mail address publisher@inquirer.com.ph, fax No. 896-6040 or 897-0719/24, Philippine Daily Inquirer, 5th floor, Philippine Daily Inquirer Building, Chino Roces Avenue corner Yague Street, Makati City, fax No. 897-07-19/24, e-mail address inquirer@inquirer.com.ph.

OPEN AUCTION OF PRIME PROPERTIES

STARPROPERTIES invites all interested parties to bid the following properties on "AS-IS-WHERE-IS" basis.

AUCTION DATE: SEPT 10, 2011 | AUCTION VENUE: HOTEL INTERCON, MAKATI CITY | REGISTRATION STARTS: 10:00 AM | AUCTION PROPER STARTS: 11:00 AM

Nurses hit scrapping of rites

By Jocelyn R. Uy

THE BOARD of the Professional Regulation Commission's (PRC) Board of Nursing to scrap the June oath-taking rites for newly registered nurses starting this year is not sitting well with the Philippine Nurses Association (PNA).

PNA national president Teresita Ramelo yesterday said the move to unravel the mass oath-taking ceremony now in its 100th year is not fair for the oath-takers' parents, mostly working overseas, who have already taken their leave from work to attend the event.

"It would be OK if it was announced earlier because now many parents and relatives of the oath-takers are anticipating the oath-taking and some are even coming home from abroad for that event," Ramelo said in a phone interview.

She said the PNA wrote the PRC but Thursday after being informed of its decision, appealing that it push through with the ceremony at least this time.

The association has even offered to sponsor the event just to see it push through on Sept. 23-26.

The PNA asked the commission to implement its decision starting in December, when the next board exam results will be given, so that everyone would be informed early.

She said that last month the association reserved a venue for the oath-taking, which 14,000 to 15,000 board passers are expected to attend. At least 37,500 (+7%) examinees passed.

"We could still hold the mass oath-taking and we could delight it," she said, stressing the importance of giving recognition to the many topnotchers and to the schools that are doing well.

The Department of Labor and Employment on Sunday announced that the PRC's Board of Nursing had decided to do away with the mass oath-taking to spare the government from the expenses "relevant to the holding of the traditional mass oath-taking."

The announcement said it would help the families of the board passers save money as well.

But Ramelo said the event had always been a "self-liquidating activity" in which not a single centavo came from the government. "The government does not spend for the occasion," she said.

Not mandatory, board passers who choose to attend the mass oath taking ceremonies pay P550 to P950 for their gowns.

She added that conducting the oath-taking either individually or by group during registration for nursing licenses with the PRC would be "inefficient" and "time-consuming" considering the almost 40,000 who passed the exam.

"This sends the wrong signal. ... It looks like they are discouraging these board passers not to be nurses anymore," she said.

P-Noy may OK dengue funds

PRESIDENT Aquino said yesterday he may authorize local governments to use their calamity funds to fight dengue but only if there was a high incidence of the mosquito-borne disease in their areas.

Interviewed over DZRH radio, the President said it was important to survey the requirement because dengue cases in the country were actually going down compared to last year.

Quoting statistics given to him by Health Secretary Enrique Ona, Mr. Aquino said dengue cases reached 50,000 in April last year but were down to 40,000 last April.

"So in a certain area, maybe we can authorize that [release of calamity funds], particularly where there is a spike in cases, but for areas where dengue cases, as have gone down dramatically... does might become an issue," the President said.

He said affected areas should clearly show that there is an emergency situation but the Commission on Audit question the release of these calamity funds. Christine O. Avendaño

SLIMMERS WORLD

BUY 1 MONTH GET 1 MONTH FREE!

PLUS! Personal Training and all the Latest Aerobics!

SPECIAL OFFER FOR THE FIRST 25 SLOTS TODAY!

CORE POWER+ BIOMETRICS with GREAT SKIN

"I lost 34 lbs., I look & feel 15 years younger!"

-Bernie Lirag 61 years old Runner-up in the Great Body Contest

Get lean, firm and sexy with a great skin.

"I lost 8 lbs. of fat & cellulite!"

Patricia Dominico Runner-Up in the Miss Bikini Philippines 2011

ALL OUR FULL PROGRAMMES ARE GUARANTEED!

CALL NOW FOR YOUR FREE CONSULTATION!!!

- NO MONTHLY DUES ON LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP!
- NO JOINING FEES!
- CREDIT CARD OPTIONS AT 0%
- MEDICAL SUPERVISION AT ALL CENTERS

BUY 15 TREATMENTS GET 15 FREE!

SPECIAL OFFER FOR THE FIRST 25 SLOTS TODAY!

IPL Skin REJUVENATION

to give you a supple, radiant, blemish-free & younger skin!

CALL OUR ONE - STOP SUPER CENTERS FOR FITNESS, SKIN, BODY AND FACE.

FITNESS HOTLINE: 536-3333

SKIN HOTLINE: 525-8771

MOBILE NUMBER: 091- SLIMMERS (75466377)

www.slimmersworld.com.ph • inquire@slimmersworld.com.ph

P-Noy: Alvarez is out

From page A1

the new customs commissioner would be former Mandaluyong City Rep. Rosanna Rufino "Ruffy" Biazon.

Palace sources yesterday said that Biazon—88, Aquino's Liberal Party mate who lost in the 2010 senatorial race—remained the President's choice for the job.

Biazon, who was on Boracay Island, declined comment.

In a text message, Biazon said: "If it's about the customs issue, I'm sorry I would have to decline (comment). The (swearing ceremony and) (sic) there's an offense Malacañang commissioned."

A little space'

Mr. Aquino revealed his decision to replace Alvarez in a prerecorded interview on ABS radio, which was aired yesterday. The Palace later released the transcript of the interview.

Mr. Aquino was asked in the interview if reports were true that Alvarez was getting the ax.

Speaking in Filipino, Mr. Aquino replied: "I have promised to give the person whom I talked with and whom we expect to be the customs bureau that I will not announce any name yet to give the person a little space."

"The person asked for a few days of quiet so give me a chance to make good on what we agreed upon," Mr. Aquino said. He said the person he was referring to had accepted the BOC job.

Mr. Aquino said he hoped "there would be no change of mind."

Unhappy President

The President also said he was "not happy" with Alvarez, but he did not elaborate.

Asked whether his choice was a politician or someone from the private sector, Mr. Aquino said: "I think it's not different from who you have in mind."

The hearings last week gave rise to speculation that Alvarez would be replaced.

Alvarez promised a smooth turnover to the customs bureau.

"When my replacement arrives, I will turn over my responsibilities in a very professional way," he said.

But he had a last hurrah.

Alvarez said that 3,656 containers were missing last year allegedly as part of an effort to raise campaign money for the Aquino administration.

Milking cow

He said that out of 3,644 containers granted (non-)shipment permits from January to December, only 988 were cleared from the Port of Manila or the Port of Batangas, only 188 could be accounted for.

"My suspicion here is that the Bureau of Customs was being used as a milking cow to raise funds for the last elections," Alvarez said in an interview.

He said that the preliminary data gathered by the special audit team he organized indicated that 1,064 containers were granted (non-)shipment permits from January to early July last year and another batch of 790 containers between mid-November and December.

However, the consignees filed consumption entries for only 168 containers from November and December for which they paid only P5.7 million in duties and taxes, Alvarez said.

In effect, 3,488 containers could not be accounted for, along with hundreds of millions of pesos in duties and taxes, he added.

Old trick

"The discovery of this scam which dates back during the time of the previous administration is the tipping point of our campaign against smuggling," Alvarez said.

HEROES DAY President Aquino speaks after Monday's ceremony at Libingan ng mga Bayani in Fort Bonifacio.

ALVAREZ Going out with a bang

He said that "the years is an old smuggler's trick," adding that the people behind it "obviously did not reckon that a customshouse with a solid audit background would be able to spoil the party."

Alvarez claimed preliminary data showed that three companies benefited from the operation: Sigrun Enterprises (which accounted for 2,801 of the missing containers), Sea Eagle Trading (766 containers), and Green Mountain Trading (175 containers).

"Curiously, Sea Eagle Trading, which was a minor player in 2010, became one of the most active (smuggling) in Batangas this year," Alvarez alleged.

Sigrun Enterprises, the dominant player last year, and Green Mountain Trading dropped out of the (smuggling) scene, their spots taken over by LCS Trading and Meridian Enterprises, he claimed.

Alvarez said Sea Eagle Trading, LCS Trading, and Meridian Enterprises were the three companies the BOC sued in the Department of Justice last week for the disappearance of 1,830 containers this year.

Death threats

Alvarez said he would ask the officials of the Port of Batangas, the Port of Manila and the Manila International Container Port to explain why no consumption entries were filed for the 3,656 misshipped containers.

He also said he had been receiving threats on his cellular phone.

"Whoever is my replacement, I hope for or she would pursue it and investigate who is responsible," Alvarez said.

Alvarez said that, as of lunch time yesterday, he had yet to be informed by the Palace or his superiors as the Department of Finance that he was being replaced.

He said Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima had been looking for "a tipping point" in the customs-rigging campaign.

"It's just final that now that we've discovered it, we are ready," he said.

"I cannot satisfy everybody. I did my best. If my best wasn't enough, then I can't do anything about that. When that time comes, I will not hold a grudge against the President. That is his call."

Alvarez has blamed vested interests bent by his reforms at the BOC for calls for his resignation.

"I discovered many anomalies for the time they were taking officials (receipts, receipts of cargo and even food port survey results)," Alvarez said.

Talk had been rife since May that Alvarez was on his way out following a controversy involving smuggled vehicles in Mindanao, including a P3.4 million custom Harley Davidson motorbike stolen from a Hollywood scriptwriter.

The contraband seized by the police included 21 cars and motorbikes brought in from Texas by ships which arrived from Korea.

With reports from Norman B. Bartgas, Jr., Inquirer Visayas

CATHOLIC EDUCATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF THE PHILIPPINES

SEEK PEACE...PURSUE IT!

STATEMENT OF SUPPORT FOR LASTING PEACE IN MINDANAO

"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God." Matthew 5:9

The Catholic Educational Association of the Philippines (CEAP) – a national association of 1,300 member schools – strives to respond to social, political, economic, moral and other critical issues as part of its commitment to the total development of the Filipino youth through Catholic formation and citizenship building. For years, it has been at the forefront of pursuing justice and peace in Mindanao and the rest of the country.

On the occasion of the 3rd Mindanao Bishops – CEAP Conference and the 4th CEAP Mindanao Summit from August 19-20, 2011 at Notre Dame University in Cotabato City, we welcome the recent initiative of President Benigno Simeon C. Aquino III in meeting the Chair of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), Al Haj Murad Ebrahim, in Narita, Japan on August 4, 2011. Here, both parties agreed to fast-track the negotiations for ending the decades-long Muslim separatist struggle in Mindanao. This is a positive development in the peace process.

President Aquino's initiative to meet with the MILF Chair truly indicates the sincerity and commitment of the current administration to achieve peace in Mindanao, an act that manifests a spirit of solidarity and peace with the Moro community in this holy month of Ramadan.

We also laud the efforts of the Coordinating Council for the Cessation of Hostilities (CCCH) and the International Monitoring Team (IMT) in the peace process. Through their tireless efforts, there has been a cessation of armed conflict between the military and the MILF since January of this year.

Equally important in the development of this peace process, is the inclusion of the Indigenous People (lumads) in the peace talks. Those lumads are often caught in the conflict and their rights, especially the protection of their ancestral domain, must be safeguarded.

All sectors of society in the Philippines are, then, urged to lend support to this transparent and democratic process that can pave the way to a lasting peace in Mindanao. Likewise, we invite people to pursue and appropriate the Mindanao 2020 vision as a framework for peace and development.

CEAP thus calls upon its members to support this peace process from within their schools by working for understanding and support for it. This includes presenting to our students the correct historical background underpinning today's peace negotiations. Peace is a desideratum not only for Mindanao, but for the entire country.

CEAP prays for peace. It prays that our Muslim brothers and sisters involved in any on-going skirmishes between the MILF and the breakaway faction of Umbra Kato may resolve their differences peacefully, so that the peace process can progress smoothly.

May the needed national peace accord be forged at the earliest time possible!

CEAP likewise calls upon all sectors of society to seize the moment for lasting peace, so essential for sustainable human development. In our country, may all persons, whether Moro, Lumad or Christian settler, live together in peace and harmony, especially in Mindanao.

CATHOLIC EDUCATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF THE PHILIPPINES
August 30, 2011

2011 CEAP NATIONAL CONVENTION

Matina, Davao | September 21-23, 2011

The 2011 CEAP National Convention will be held in Davao City from September 21 to 23. The theme for this year is **"Building a Culture of Peace: Shaping the Vision, Living the Dream"**. The opening of the convention on September 21 coincides with the United Nations International Day of Peace.

All school heads of the CEAP schools are expected to attend the **General Membership Meeting** scheduled on **September 20, one day before the actual convention at 2:00PM.** This will be held at the Finster Hall of the Ateneo de Davao University, Jacinto Campus.

Registration is extended until September 5, 2011
To register: online: visit:
http://conventions.ceap.org.ph

2011CEAP

Building a Culture of Peace:
Shaping the Vision, Living the Dream

Assistant Editor Tony Benipayo

Across the NATION

SC halts Zamboanga mining

By Kristine L. Alave

THE SUPREME COURT has banned mining in the mineral-rich Zamboanga peninsula, favoring a petition of religious and nongovernment organizations which asked that mining be stopped due to its dangerous effects to the environment and indigenous communities.

In an en banc decision on Aug. 16, the high tribunal issued a writ of "kalikasan," directing the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and its attached agencies, particularly the Mines and Geosciences Bureau, to stop issuing mining permits and applications.

MGB Director Leo Jasareno lamented the court's issuance of the writ, saying this will be a blow to the country's mining industry.

"The writ would stop all mining applications and operations in the entire Zamboanga Peninsula. If the allegations would prove to be baseless, this would be disastrous to investors and place in doubt the ability of the government to protect legitimate investments," Jasareno said.

Covering 1.4 million hectares of land, or 14 percent of the total peninsula area is listed as land. The place has proven reserves of gold, chromite, silver, manganese and lead.

The writ of kalikasan was promulgated by then Chief Justice Reynato Puno to give citizens and stakeholders a legal way to challenge parties that they believe are harming the environment.

According to the petitioners, the DENR and its attached agencies virtually committed grave abuse of power when they issued permits and concessions to mining firms in the region, knowing that it would harm the environment.

The petitioners accused that the mining industry in the Zamboanga peninsula poses threats to the residents and the environment.

They maintained that many of the mining applications cover key biodiversity areas and watersheds of regions. These areas will be degraded by mineral extraction activities.

The mining firms in the peninsula also encroach on the ancestral lands of the Subanon tribe, they added.

The petitioners include the Philippine Earth Justice Center, Alliance to Save the Integrity of Nature, Bonifacio Aquino Foundation Organization of Indonesian People, Bishop Jose R. Mercado and several private individuals.

High court issues writ of 'kalikasan'

Sulu kidnappers free 2 vendors

ZAMBOANGA CITY—Kidnappers freed two vendors of "shay oday" (weird-looking) in Sulu on Sunday morning after payment of ransom money, police and military said.

Jerilson Ahamad Bina, 18, and Fevlin Bagay, 25, were released in Binanggay Gali in Patikul town, according to Chief Supt. Bernardino Bisa, head of the Directorate for Integrated Police Operations Western Mindanao.

Investigators showed that the victims' relatives paid a total of P300,000 to ransom, Bisa said.

Lt. Col. Randolph Cabangbang, spokesperson of the military's Western Mindanao Command, said he had also received reports that ransom was paid.

Bisdara and Bagay were on their way home when the motorcycle they were riding was flagged down by armed men on Aug. 23.

Julie S. Alipala, Inquirer Mindanao

P1 last hirit!

ALL DOMESTIC DESTINATIONS!

Sale Period: Aug. 29-30, 2011
Travel Period: Dec. 1, 2011-Jan.31, 2012

Only available online at www.cebupacificair.com or through travel agents on Amadeus

INTERNATIONAL	LowFARE
P999	Clark to Hong Kong or Macau
P1,499	Manila to Kota Kinabalu
P1,699	Manila or Clark to Singapore
P1,999	Manila to Guangzhou or Taipei Cebu to Hong Kong or Singapore
P2,499	Manila to Ho Chi Minh, Hong Kong or Macau
P2,999	Manila to Brunei
P3,499	Manila to Bangkok or Kuala Lumpur Clark to Bangkok
P3,999	Manila to Beijing, Busan, Incheon, Jakarta or Shanghai Cebu to Busan or Incheon
P5,999	Manila to Osaka

Quoted fares are one way. Limited availability. Fares are non-refundable. Fares are exclusive of govt taxes and fuel surcharges. Flight changes must be made more than 24 hours before scheduled time of departure. Web check-in allows you to bypass airport queues and save time and money at check-in. Web check-in is available 30 minutes to 24 hours before scheduled flight. Visit www.cebupacificair.com for more conditions.

CEBU PACIFIC AIR.COM

THE DAILY GOSPEL

AUGUST 30 (Tuesday)
Psalter Week 2
22nd Week in Ordinary Time
Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14

I believe that I shall see the good things of the Lord in the land of the living.

1st Reading: 1 Thes 5:1-6, 9-11

Brothers and sisters: You do not need anyone to write to you about the day and the appointed time for these events. For you know that the Day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. When people feel secure and at peace, the disaster will suddenly come upon them as the birth pangs of a woman in labor, and they will not escape.

But you, brothers, are not in darkness, so that the day will not surprise you like a thief. All of you are citizens of the light and citizens of the day; we do not belong to night and darkness. Let us not, therefore, sleep as others do, but remain alert and sober.

Gospel: Lk 4:31-37

Jesus went down to Capernaum, a town of Galilee, and began teaching the people in the Sabbath assemblies. They were astonished at the way he taught them, for his word was spoken with authority.

In the synagogue there was a man possessed by an evil spirit who shouted in a loud voice, "What do you have with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I recognize you: you are the holy One of God." Then Jesus said to him sharply, "Be silent and leave this man!" The evil spirit threw the man down in front of them and came out of him without doing him harm.

Amazement seized all those people and they said to one another, "What does this mean? He commands the evil spirits with authority and power and they leave!" And news about Jesus spread throughout the surrounding area.

Reflection:

To speak with authority is to speak with truth. People were able to tell that this Teacher who is teaching them is different from other persons claiming to have an authority because Jesus' message comes from the One who created them. Even the evil spirit was able to recognize the identity of Jesus: "I recognize you, you are the Holy One of God." Authority figures nowadays may be speaking engaging words and using persuasive yet people still recognize their insincerity through their actions. Words coming from the personal interest of the person will bear no fruit but words based on the gospel of Jesus will always bring a transformation.

Officials face angry residents over trash slide

By Vincent Cabreza
Inquirer Northern Luzon

BAGUIO CITY—Keeping the city dump stable kept officials and engineers busy on Monday after the facility failed to withstand heavy rains dumped by typhoon "Mina" on Saturday.

But they also had to deal with the anger of the community on their flood in Tuba, Benguet, which has become the downstream dump. This is the same community, along with residents of Barangay Irisan, that forced the city government to close the dump in 2008, believing it had become a danger to them.

The mountain of garbage stands 20 meters high and looms over communities on Asin Road.

On Monday, Asin residents went to the City Hall to confront officials.

A portion of the dump collapsed on Saturday, burying at least three houses perched on the sides of the dump and killing five people.

Over 15,000 cubic meters of compacted trash now block access to Asin Road. Since Sunday, employees, leaders and residents have been walking through this mound of trash to get to and from Baguio City.

Boy Aqui, chief geologist of the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) in the Cordillera, said the wall of garbage from the dump uphill to the road below spans 350 meters, covering stretches of local roads and even on Asin Road's Kilometer 5.

No evacuation alert

"No one alerted us to evacuate on Saturday [when Typhoon Mina brought strong rains in Baguio]…. I was with my two daughters and a grandchild when a huge ball of trash rolled in from our rear house. It was like a monster had crossed our path," said Elizabeth Raguini, 46.

Some of Raguini's neighbors went to Barangay Irisan and blocked the path of garbage trucks, which were sent by the city government to Asin Road to haul the trash to a landfill in Tuba.

The village leaders told Mayor Mauricio Domogan that they were certain the trash would simply be hauled back to the dump, "and our cycle of falling trash will never end."

Domogan justified the relocation, then added, negotiations took place at City Hall, government engineers sat down to study why the dump fell apart.

Cordelia Lacsamana, city environment officer, said the dump was unstable while rains continued to pour in the city. She said experts would need about nine to inspect the mountain of trash and find out what had gone wrong.

DENR supervision

Under the supervision of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Lacsamana said the government had to undertake a five-year rehabilitation process that required it to shape the wall of garbage into terraces of compacted trash, which would be held in place by an 8-m high and 1.5- m thick concrete containing wall at its base, documents showed.

Because the facility needs to be sustained to prevent trash and leachate (liquid from decaying garbage) from leaking out into the area, the city government was required to install an artificial pathway that would channel runoff rainwater away from the dump.

Fountains of water

Residents said they saw fountains of water shoot out from the concrete wall on Saturday morning, on the day the typhoon dumped 221 millimeters of rain on Baguio, Lacsamana said.

Within minutes, the retaining wall burst, and the weight appeared to be high water pressure, followed immediately by mounds of garbage that rolled down the mountainside, she said.

"We are still uncertain why water still seeps into the dump. [given its] concrete lattice and [concrete runoff] drains," an engineers' team time to inspect the facility," Lacsamana said.

Brigida Andrada, a government engineer, warned the matter that rolled down the Magsaysay Road toward the dump on Saturday to a government road construction project.

Road work

"Due to the ongoing reconstruction (by) work crews to install new drainage system along the second road of Barangay Irisan Hill, runoff water had been diverted to the road's concrete outline [because] the existing drainage system (has been) damaged by debris from ongoing reconstruction," Andrada said.

She said this may explain the cascading water seen rolling down Magsaysay Road.

Clarence Bagsiyao, DENR-Cordillera director, said the compacted garbage is now over Asin Road approximately [an area] based on a report by Eugenio Moreno, Cordillera director of the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB).

Lacsamana said photographs of the rehabilitated Irisan dump before the collapse showed portions of the facility's retaining wall to be swollen, suggesting that it could have been storing water for sometime now.

But drillers like those were reported and notified months before the accident occurred, she said.

Mina dumped up to 223 millimeters of rain over the city from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Saturday, which meteorologists here describe as "calamitous" for the summer capital. The dump collapse happened at 12:30 p.m. on Saturday, amid heavy rains here.

Domogan said the huge amount of rainfall would be a key factor when the city reviews the facility's design.

Because of the collapse, a new trail would have to be built around the dump, which would take the government's another four years to complete, Lacsamana said.

ETUDENTS, employees and traders have climb up this mound of trash, estimated to be 15,000 cubic meters of 15-year-old garbage, that now occupies Kilometer 5 of Asin Road. The trash slid off the city's decommissioned dump which toppled from rains unleashed by Typhoon "Mina."

Is Angat Dam stable? Gov't sets aside ₱50M for study

By Carmela Reyes-Evangue
Inquirer Central Luzon

NORZAGARAY, Bulacan—For over 40 years, the Angat Dam has been supplying potable water to Metro Manila, but is it still stable enough to withstand strong earthquakes?

The government has set aside at least P50 million to find this out, dam officials said.

Rodolfo Orosman, general manager of the Angat River Hydro Electric Power Plants Complex of the National Power Corp. (Napocor), said the study and testing of the facility would take six months after the awarding of the contract to the winning bidder.

Among the companies interested in undertaking the project are Skye Zealand based Tonkin & Taylor and its local partner, the Engineering and Development Corp. of the Philippines (Edcop), he said.

Earlier, Bulacan Gov. Wilhelmino Sy-Alvarado asked national officials to check the structural soundness of the Angat Dam and if it could stand earthquakes measuring more than 6 magnitude, especially Metro Manila, where a major fault system lies.

Sixteen said low-lying villages along the more than 50-kilometer reach of the Angat River are at risk if the dam is damaged and, hence, by Alvarado said. These areas experience heavy floods whenever excess water is released from the dam, especially during typhoons.

The study would help ease the worries and fears of hundreds of locals and residents, especially in Barangays Angat, San Rafael, Baliwag, Sumon, Pinagtulayan, Calumpang, Hagonoy and Bustos in Bulacan, Orosman said.

The Angat Dam and its facilities were built from 1964 to 1967. The dam started operations in 1968, and has since been providing 97 percent of the water supply of 20-to-30-million households, businesses and industries.

Its reservoir supplies irrigation water to about 31,000 hectares of farmlands in Pampanga and Bulacan.

The Angat Dam generates 246 megawatts of electricity for the the Luzon power grid.

It also acts as flood control facility as it catches heavy inflows of water from the Sierra Madre mountains during heavy rains and regulates the release of water to spare low-lying communities from heavy floods, according to Sarmiento.

Alcala wants 'fixers' arrested on the spot

By Juan Escandor Jr.
Inquirer Southern Luzon

NAGA CITY—Agriculture Secretary Proceso Alcala directed local officials in immediately arrest unscrupulous persons trying to "sell" department-funded projects or hold government assets.

Alcala warned the officials against these "fixers" amid reports reaching his office that they had been going to the provinces and cities and offering to broker projects under the Department of Agriculture's budget.

The presence of these people with connections in the bureaucracy and who make money by facilitating government projects for local officials preventing documentary requirements is not tolerated under the Aquino administration, Alcala stressed in a press conference here on Saturday.

"All government projects, in obtaining farm machinery roads, now have a corresponding complaint. In the complaint form, there are spaces to filled up, say, how many hectares covered, number of farmers benefited, what product will be harvested by the road construction, thereafter, the evaluators of the project will come," Alcala explained.

If there are people offering to facilitate projects without the complaint, he said, it must be a "disaster."

"Never them and hang them upside down," he told media practitioners.

Alcala was here to attend two-barrier conferences in Camarines Sur.

16 inmates face raps for jail violence

ILIGAN CITY—Police are readying criminal charges against 16 inmates involved in Friday's violence inside the district jail in Bahjan.

Chief Insp. Gilbert Gerero, police chief of the capital town of Sen. Jose, said on Saturday that the inmates would be charged with murder or homicide, illegal possession of firearms and explosives, and prison threats.

Investigators have identified Christopher Bernardo, Lloyd Francisco and two other inmates who were directly involved in the killing of jail guard Rustan Sagadal.

Sagadal died from a bullet wound in the nape after he was overpowered and disarmed by inmates wielding two handguns and a grenade.

The inmates also held hostage 116 other detainees, but surrendered after a six-hour standoff.

Fernando and Fresnito remained detained at the San Jose police station while 14 others were moved to the provincial jail.

Gerero said the inmates who threw a handgun and grenade over the jail's perimeter wall which were used in the standoff had already been identified.

The inmates told investigators that they staged the standoff to demand their transfer to another facility as the current one was overcrowded.

The regional police and the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP) have formed a joint team to determine possible lapses and liabilities of jail personnel that led to the incident.

Chief Supt. Ciprianus Querol Jr., Western Visayas police director, said the team would also look into the motives of the inmates. Ainsar P. Ilargo Jr. in Iligan City and Inquirer Visayas

Audit letters to gov't aid beneficiaries scare Bulacan lawmaker

CLARK FREEPORT—A Commission on Audit (COA) practice of sending letters to beneficiaries of government assistance and making them sign to confirm receipt of money or help has caused a stir, not only in Bulacan but Pedro Pacheco.

Pancho, who at 77 is one of the oldest and longest-serving members of the House of Representatives, asked Social Welfare Secretary Corazon "Dinky" Soliman here on Thursday to stop the internal auditor of her department from sending letters to people who received burial and financial assistance in Bulacan, Malolos, Bocaue, Bustos, Guiguinto, Paniki and Plaridel towns, all in Bulacan.

He aired his concern during an open forum where Soliman discussed with local officials the government's National Household Targeting System for Poverty Reduction.

Pancho said he was warned of the COA practice because most aid recipients were afraid to send back signed receipts confirmation letter for fear that it would be them to a wrongdoing.

According to him, people after receipt whenever the assistance arrive, fearing they would arrest them.

"These reactions may give the impression that I didn't help the people or I misused the money," said Pancho, who is now in his sixth term as representative. He completed his three terms from 1992 to 2001 and won a seat again in 2004.

Soliman explained to Pancho that the audit letters were sensitively directed at local agencies, such as the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), that use the Assistance to Poor Families (AFAP).

Pancho said: "I give the DSWD P30 million each year from my PDAF [or subsidiary burial assistance programs], but this is on top of what I give from out of my own pocket."

The Bulacan lawmaker assists to 15 nightly and the lawmaker, who reported his net worth in 2006 at P71,027-million.

Pancho said his "shabby" but never dominated alone were monetary in P200,000 monthly income—the "highest of three" of services." "It's my own pocket which gets hurt by these financial requests," he said in Filipino.

He claimed to have governed a village-based funeral assistance program in Bulacan with the help of a barangay captain/chief. The program has been giving bereaved families at least P15,000 for funeral services and P5,000 in "pocket money," he said.

"My district [office] is open to early as 7 a.m. when people start coming in and for bulletproof vests open on Saturday because we don't want to be the cause of the delay of the burial [when we fail to give money for funeral services]," he said.

But visibly annoyed or amused, Soliman clarified that the COA, not the DSWD, was doing the post audit.

Pancho told Soliman: "Please stop sending these letters, ma'am. I volunteer to lend my own vehicles to bring the coffins to the site and just ask the people, I prefer personal visits by them."

He also said he would advise bereaved relatives not to sign receipts anymore, adding: "That's not appropriate." He said, adding that this may send the living wishing they were dead and be buried next to their departed loved ones. Rosette Olivares, Inquirer Central Luzon

Kato warns US troops in war games

By Jeoffrey Maitem
Inquirer Mindanao

DATU UNSAY, Maguindanao—The head of a breakaway Moro rebel group warned American soldiers not to enter its territories in Mindanao or they may become targets.

Ameril Umra Kato, who now calls his group Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Movement, made the warning shortly his camp on Sunday, ahead of a joint military exercise between the government and US troops scheduled for Aug. 30 in Central Mindanao.

"They (American troops) are not helping in resolving the problem. Filipino soldiers only get overnight home because of them," Kato said.

The Balikatan Exercises is a bilateral exercise that involves the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the US Armed Forces to enhance interoperability of both forces in the conduct of joint training against external threats, according to Lt. Col. Prudencio Asis, spokesperson of the Army's 6th Infantry Division.

"Kato is out of context in the statements. It's purely training of our men," Asis said.

The former leader of Moro Islamic Liberation Front's 105th Command said his followers had seen American soldiers, along with their Filipino counterparts, inside their "controlled area" in Maguindanao searching for suspects in the 2009 massacre of 57 people, including at least 32 media workers.

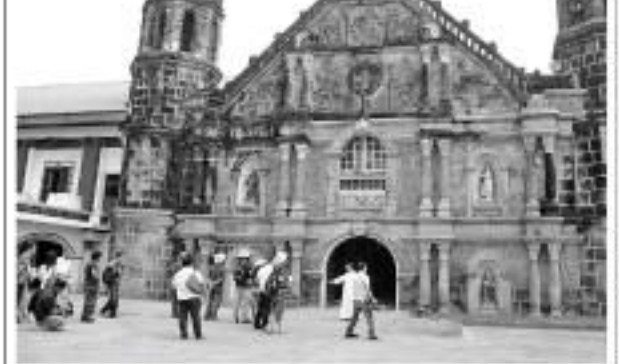
"This time, if they are going to go in our territories, we might be forced to target them," Kato said.

Kato backed from the main MILF over disagreements over the handling of the peace process, and for allegedly abandoning him in the aftermath of the 2008 incident that escalated after the government failed to sign a negotiated agreement on a Kumpulanon homeland.

Kato took up fundamentalist religion as a scholar in Imam Mukhtar Mohammad Binanzad Islamic School in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia in 1983.

He claimed to have more than 600 followers, both armed and unarmed.

Asis said he was awaiting guidance from Armed Forces headquarters on how to address Kato's case.



THE 173-YEAR-OLD Santa Monica Church in Minalin town in Pampanga. [illegible]

Pampanga church now a 'cultural treasure'

By Tonette Orejas
Inquirer Central Luzon

MINALIN, Pampanga—The number of statistical cultural treasures (NCTs) in the Philippines is now 139 following the declaration of the Santa Monica Church here as such on Saturday.

Most of the NCTs are churches built during the Spanish colonial period, said Angel Bautista, chief of the National Museum's cultural properties division.

The government started declaring NCTs and securing their preservation in 1973 with the museum's move in Bahayan, Bataan[illegible] the initial issue of Luzon and Pampanga statistical treasures town, both in Mt. Province.

An NCT is a "unique cultural property found locally possessing outstanding historical, cultural, artistic and/or scientific value which is highly significant and important to the country, and officially declared as such by previous

HOMETOWN
Snapshot

cultural agency," according to the National Cultural Heritage Act of 2009 (Republic Act No. 10066).

The declaration, which conferred the NCT status on the 18th century Minalin structure and its liturgical objects, was signed by Jeremy Barns, National Museum director, in the presence of Gov. Lilia Pineda.

Mayor Jerson Bagtas, Fr. Gregorio Yoga, architect Owen Cunha, local officials, members and residents.

Fr. Archbishop Oscar Cruz, Archbishop Emeritus Antonio Aniceto and Auxiliary Bishop Pablo Virgilio David presided the unveiling of the NCT marker that was installed below the choir loft of the church.

Bagtas led the application for an NCT status, which was certified by a panel of experts, Bautista said.

The declaration said the church, "built in a cruciform plan, is 62 meters long, 13 meters wide and 11 meters high and [possesses] emblems of Buddhist influences [are shown] through highlights of murals and lotus flowers decorations on its floor. Inset, as well as on various walls and designs throughout the building. But despite pro-Hispanic motifs each as the sage (dragon), the elephant (serpent), the dove (crocodile), the holy bread (fish) and the golden (eagle)."

Its four capilla posas (small outdoor chapels) distinguished the church "as the only church in the Philippines where such integrated elements are to be found in their historic state," it said.

Stated in the an authentic Augustinian church, its design is basically similar to a crucifix (cruciform) riches for images of saints), holds a 163.8 meter that depicts the [illegible] cross's landscape and keeps an antique La Concolacion painting.

Interior Secretary Jesse Robredo praised the efforts of local officials in leading the conservation of heritage, four as symbolic of the "rich resource it is the people of Minalin."

Invited guest residents to "guard the heritage of our faith and bequeath it to the next generation."

Bautista said properties declared as NCTs and national historical landmarks are entitled to priority government funding for preservation, conservation and restoration.

The municipal government has joined the National Commission on Culture on cultural heritage, restoration and conservation in undertaking a tourism plan to make the church a destination of pilgrims and the town as site of river cruises and pleasure.

Minalin is a major producer of chicken eggs and Capiz in the province.

NEWSBRIEFS

■ COMPOSTELA VALLEY

Blast hurts 3

THREE persons were hurt when a grenade lobbed by an unidentified person exploded in a village barangay in Laak town on Saturday night.

Supt. Jose Generalao, Southern Mindanao police spokesperson, said the attack happened during a dance in Purok 3 at just 11:00 p.m. Police recovered grenade fragments at the site.

Feliciano Bastino, 48, of Tagum City, 69 Pyak, 18, and Jessel Hinagpis, 16, both of Barangay Napalangan, Laak, suffered minor shrapnel wounds and are undergoing treatment at the hospital. **Philreden I. Lim, Inquirer Mindanao**

■ BUKIDNON CITY

LTO official attacked

ASST. DIR. Wilfredo Ortiz Land Transportation Office (LTO) was shot dead by a still unidentified assailant in Cagayan de Oro City, barely two months after a similar attack killed his agency's chief.

According to a police report, Edwin Baral, chief of operation at the LTO office in the city, was near the Bonbon Bonao Park when he was shot several times.

He suffered multiple fatal wounds and remains in critical condition at the hospital police said.

Earlier, his boss, Samy Banggan, was shot dead while playing tennis inside the city engineering compound.

Tito Sol, Inquirer Mindanao

■ SOUTH COTABATO

T'boli in int'l shoot tilt

A TI-FLAME-BLOOD boy will join the Philippine delegation to the world shooting competition in Athens, Greece, in October.

Ken Dayle Tuan, son of Councilor Glen Sword T'boli town, is preparing further training under coach TJ Jerome Tina Bright Gandep in Manila.

Ken recently bagged third place in the "Junior Open" category of the shooting competition during Dreun Dyo's Kadayawan Festival. Last year, he won fifth in that division during the world shooting contest in Malaysia.

Agustin Z. Tomio, Inquirer Mindanao

■ GENERAL SANTOS CITY

Soldier shot dead

AN ARMY soldier died from a single bullet wound in the back in a private hospital early Saturday night, just a few minutes after he was shot by a motorcycle-riding assailant.

Staff Sgt. Ramon Cigarillo, a member of the Army's Field Artillery Battalion based at Barangay Tampan, was walking on a street on his way to his house when he was attacked at 7:20 p.m. Chief Insp. Alden Gonzales, Lagao police station chief, told reporters on Saturday.

Cigarillo was pronounced dead at the hospital a few minutes after he was brought there, he said. Police are still investigating the motive and the identity of the killer.

Agustin Z. Tomio, Inquirer Mindanao

■ DAVAO DEL SUR

Militiaman killed in clash

A MILITIAMAN was killed when government troops clashed with communist rebels in Kiblawan town on Saturday.

Senior Insp. Rodolfo Cabanis, Kiblawan police chief, said militiaman under the Army's 72nd Infantry Battalion encountered rebels belonging to the New People's Army (NPA) South-ern Mindanao regional guerrilla unit in Sitio Mining in Barangay Kiblawan at around 5:25 a.m.

Cabanis said the rebels stormed the detachment of the Civilian Emergency Force in the area, sparking a 10-minute firefight that left Hildy Mokodo dead.

Cabanis said Mokodo suffered a bullet wound in the armpit.

Orlando B. Dinoy, Inquirer Mindanao

■ CAPIZ

Soldier dead in ambush

A SOLDIER was killed while five others were wounded Sunday in an ambush staged by New People's Army (NPA) rebels in Tapaz town.

Capiz police chief Senior Supt. Dominga Cebrian said the ambush, belonging to the 61st Infantry Battalion were on their way back to their camp in Barangay Lagdungan from Roxas City. When they reached Barangay Bailan, the rebels lobbed explosives at the military truck, he said.

Killed was Pfc. Marlon Galvan, the truck driver. The wounded were brought to Maninay Nirayan Medical Center in Iloilo. They were identified Pvts Lt. Jonalito Olalia, battalion spokesperson; 2Lt. Libon Brawner, Private First Class Rolly Hanilad and Marlon Gamboa-tan, and Carl Mariano Cesarino.

Felipit P. Delfin, Inquirer Visayas

■ CAVITE

Cocaine seized

POLICE seized a kilo of suspected cocaine, valued at P5 million, in a shopping and dining complex in Bacoor and Cavite City.

Cavite police director Senior Supt. John Bulalacao said one of the arrested suspects told police that the illegal drug came from his hometown in Leyte.

A suspected drug dealer, Alex Mingoa, 34, was arrested around 8 p.m. along Bacoor-Highway in Tanza, Tanza police Chief Supt. Gregorio Pasco said.

Police also arrested Arnold Tolentin, 23, in Barangay Bautista in a subsequent raid in his home and seized the remaining grams of cocaine. Alex arrested was their companion, Bubby Tupaz, 42, a seller of cocaine.

Marlon Ramos, Inquirer Southern Luzon

People's Choice
GOLD 2009
GOLD 2008
GOLD 2006
GOLD 2005
GOLD 2004
GOLD 2003
GOLD 2002
GOLD 2001
GOLD 2000
GOLD 1999
PLATINUM
PILOT
coleto
HI-TEC-C
Select your color & flair point pen
available in 1 caliber, 3, 4 & 5 hallpoint
Philippine Exclusive Distributor
COSMOS BAZAR, INC.
PILOT CORPORATION

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

OPINION

Shared festival

THE NATION is marking today the end of a long weekend with the celebration of Eid'l Fitr, a Muslim holiday. Eid'l Fitr (the Festival of Fast-breaking) is a three-day celebration of the Muslim world commemorating the end of Ramadan, a period of dawn-to-dusk fasting. Eid is a time for giving gifts, especially to children; giving charity to the poor; and celebrating with family and friends the completion of a month of blessings and joy.

EDITORIAL

The declaration of Eid'l Fitr as a national holiday is just one of the measures the government has taken to show Muslim Filipinos that it is giving them the importance as well as the attention that they deserve. The scholar Peter Gordon Gowing said that the Muslim people of the Philippines take pride in the fact that they have an older history as an identifiable community than any of the other Filipino peoples. If the Spanish colonizers, and after them, the Americans, had not taken over the Philippines, the Philippines would have been—and would still be—a predominantly Muslim nation, like most of the countries in Southeast Asia today.

Christian Filipinos owe much to the West, principally to Spain, which brought the Roman Catholic faith and various influences in language, law, music, art, social structures, among other sectors; and to the United States, which brought the English language, democratic institutions, a Hollywood lifestyle and a taste for Coke and McDonald's hamburgers, among other things. Growing weary of that, on the other hand, the Muslims of the southern Philippines maintained their roots firmly in the Islamized Malay world and owe much to the Islamic civilization of the Middle East, particularly Arabia.

Lesser and the Visayas quickly came under the domination of Spain, and later, the United States, but a large area of Southern Philippines resisted foreign colonial domination. It has often been said that the Americans invented the .45 cal. pistol because they could not bring down the fierce Moro defenders with "ordinary" pistols and revolvers. If only for the Moros' unrelenting resolve to resist foreign colonizers, they deserve a place of honor in Philippine history.

But the Moros have been considered "second-class citizens," discriminated against because of their religion and culture, and given minimal attention by "Imperial Manila." The Muslim-dominated areas of southern Philippines have almost always been in a state of torment, giving the central government a huge headache. The state of affairs in Muslim Mindanao took a turn for the worse by the late 1960s. By the early 1970s, during the Marcos administration, the situation had become critical.

Three events caused the worsening of the crisis: the so-called "Jabidah massacre" on Corregidor island, where 28 Moro recruits supposedly being trained for a secret mission in Sabah were executed in March 1968 by Philippine Army soldiers after they became restless because they were not paid for months, and after they learned that they were going to fight and kill brother Muslims in Sabah, Malaysia.

Since then Muslim Mindanao has not enjoyed stability and peace. First the Muslim Claver Mindanao Independence Movement was formed to seek to establish an Islamic Republic of Mindanao and Sulu. Then a group of Muslim intellectuals and students organized the Moro National Liberation Front which waged an armed struggle against the forces of the central government. After MNLF's Nur Misuari was co-opted by Manila, the violence died down somewhat, but soon an alternative group, the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, was formed, and it is now the MILF that central government is trying to negotiate peace with.

President Aquino recently tried to show his sincerity to his efforts to solve what has been called "the Mindanao problem" by breaking protocol and meeting with Murad Ebrahim, MILF chair, in Tokyo.

The prospects are encouraging. The government has certainly shown its sincerity and resolve to settle the Mindanao problem once and for all, and finally to bring peace, after so many decades, to a region that holds so much economic promise and that could greatly contribute to the development of the entire country. When that time comes, truly Eid'l Fitr would be an occasion for nationwide rejoicing.

Founding Chair: **EMILIO C. YAP**

Publisher: **ISAAC ROSES**

Editor in Chief: **LETTY JANSON-MANGAHAS**

Managing Editor: **JOSE NIC D. NOLASCO**

Associate Editor: **MARGARITA D. ALAGAR**

Executive Editor for Multimedia: **NORMAN A. BANDOLINO**

Opinion Editor: **JAIME V. ONGPIN**

News Editor: **MICHAEL T. ENANORIA** • Chief Copy Desk Specialist: **NICK B. PEÑERA**

Chief News Desk Head: **RUBEN E. ALAGADOR**

Business Editor: **MARGARITA R. BARCELON, JR.**

Senior Desk Editor: **JOSE N. LAMBINO JR.**

Editorial Consultant: **ARMANDO J. DOROMAL**

Chief Photographer: **EDGAR D. LABRADOR**

Art Director: **ERNESTO A. VILLEGAS**

Board Chair: **HERMOGENES P. PEREZ**

President: **ALEXANDRINO PEREZ RODRIGUEZ**

Senior Vice President for Sales and Marketing: **ROBERT R. ROMERO**

Vice President for Administration: **FLORITA C. OLAVE**

Vice President for Info Tech and Production: **GARY B. LIM**

Vice President for Finance: **JOSE M. VILLAREAL**

Chief Risk Officer: **ALEXANDRE R. ESMAILA III**

Corporate Affairs Manager: **CARMEN G. ALAGADOR**

All rights reserved. Unauthorized reproduction, transmission, storage or use of this Philippine Daily Inquirer material in any medium or format is strictly prohibited. Violators will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.

Wisecracks as revolts

VIEWPOINT

Juan L. Mercado

"EGLISE JOSEF against Big Brother' are rare revelations," George Orwell's mom wrote from inner experience. Filipinos know what this author of the soul-chilling classic narrated "1984" means. Rage and Hope poked fun, sewings, at repressive scriptures, prompting the dumpster to crash down. Recall the stun taken ill in front of Imelda Marcos' Film Center? As he pokes, a passerby has body-whispers: "Pare, it's a camera!" quipped.

Libel? Monsenyor Soebah Ibot, an old boy's Sukhlan Hussein and Tunairin ibni Ali. Tiboli ceremonies were jolted up corpses, wrecked her plaza, killed luxury airliners, devastation homes, plug avenues of underground escape tunnels.

But this history repeats itself? Are clever jokes in fact bid to those cracked elsewhere in the lucky country of the "Arab Spring"? "The dream of human tastes that the most poignant political jokes are found subversive totalitarian governments," Christie Davies, professor of humor at the University of California, Riverside, told Associated Press.

In the jayshows "Colonel Bwetsanas" several dozen, Dianese students would yell: "Viva, viva la Coca-Cola" and "Abaja el Presidente Ng Dos" Bagets. The 1975 referral to Miss Universe, Dr. Ferrer, from the Vatican confessor that elected Pope John Paul II, the late Jaime Cardinal Sin told Leonardo Perez of the stamp pad manufacturer: "Leonardo, I come, if you want now the Condares. I'd have been subpoenaed."

Political jokes, however, tend to winter when People Power-wise lands here upwork. In Poland, pigs dared say after the Solidarnosc movement achieved its freedom: "Capitalism is exploitation of man by man; communism is just the opposite." In Russia, Pravda was the earlier favored this pairings were military manners being limited by an officer. He says to the other: "This is good practice for the day when we're bathed by the top commander." Everybody got the intellectualized message.

Libya's top military honcho was football.

Like the Philippines after People Power I, Libya's newspapers and stations are suddenly free to speak. "We're now free to use this sword of satire, to talk openly about politics, to make jokes about politicians," one exiled Iranian. "Before, we'd just give home about politics and people would stare and feel happy. Now they're more critical. It's difficult to make them laugh about politics because they're eating themselves. Political jokes are a way to fight with and now we don't need it. Just maybe later."

Cyberspace made it impossible for Gaddafi's regime to clamp total censorship. Referring to "Grain of the Web of Unjustified Great Revolution" vanishing ones to three-hour addresses, a Libyan wrote, for example, cracks: "If the rebels don't surrender, we'll replay the whole speech." Before him, both shot times for Hurricane "Irene," David Letterman cracked: "Gaddafi said he'll never turn back." I think that's what he said. It was hard to hear over the wind gunfire."

Indeed, "an old Arab adage has it that the worst misfortune is the one that makes you laugh," as Australian psychoanalyst Darian Leader, author of "Why Do Women Write More Letters Than They Send?" wrote. Revolutions in due train in Libya where Gaddafi's outlandish antics are causing hoots on the internet." Facebook captions mocking despots: "Don't shoot my mediocre, it's all I have." The hits goes on.

In less than a year, Arab Spring tsunamis have smashed the Arab world: Tunisia, Egypt and now Libya. Three rivulets are now working their way through Syria, Yemen and Bahrain. Young people drive these uprisings. They share sociabilities as well as satire. New York Times

Dumating na ang araw n'yo

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

TAPUSIN mga ang usapin na iyan, para hindi pa sa susunod na taon ang Bureau ng Mga pwede pang dalasi ito. Si kahit sa kasong lagalag pa rin kung ang siste ko, pipilitin kong mangyari. Ang mga kaso ng mga nakaraan ng buwan ng Agosto. Mga mga mas angkop ang salitang pero gusto ko.

Halimbawa nasa na ang pinakahuling resulta ng survey na ang "May araw din kayo" kilang pag. mga na mga kwan na ang kilang. Di pa rin sa kilang nakaraan ang mga buwan na ito, pero marami na ang nagsasabi ng mga bagay na ito. Ang mga ang mga ang mga

Updated 'pitik' test on 'Aquinomics'

NO FREE LUNCH

Cielito F. Habito

I THOUGHT of wasting till next week to write this piece on the political state of the Philippine economy, after all, the National Statistical Coordination Board will only announce the official economic growth data for the second quarter tomorrow. Even so, the flash estimates and other opinions Authority has already come out with a "flurries forecast" generally among many local economists that a slowdown in second quarter (June to, from April to June) of this year. If correct, then the growth in the first quarter would have been sustained or even slightly improved upon.

But even without the official growth figure, one can already make an updated assessment of the state of the economy based on other data that have already been recently reported. Growth in output, after all, is just one aspect of assessing many facets of the economy. It is a highly inadequate measure, especially if one is interested in the state of well-being of the people making up the economy. I have already written much on other more aggregate output (and income) measures, such as gross national income (or the same) and does not necessarily imply more general happiness. My regular readers would know that these vital statistics make up my notorious "pitik" test for the economic state (pitaw), wellness (sakit), welfare (buenas) — hence the PTB measure. Indeed, the pitik test is the most consistently people consider these three indicators as more important, in that order.

Let's start with prices, then. Prices generally go up through time; in fact, one should worry when these prices do not go up, as this is a sign of a stagnating economy. This had been the case in Japan for well over a decade. The relevant question is, how has are prices moving up? The latest reported annual inflation rate is 4.3 percent, slightly higher than the 3.8 percent last year, but actually down from its some of our more dynamic neighbors of late. The good news is that food price increases have been slower than overall, suggesting that inflation is not hitting the poor. Or inflation food is the dominant part of their budget) so hard as the jobs data are already suggestive of what to expect. One can be reasonably confident that these data are indicative of more production, since that it is too likely on the other way around; we have seen recession of that kind in jobless or even job-killing growth in recent years. So far, less economy updated. Two data are already in: the Bureau of Agricultural Statistics reports a hefty 11 percent growth in crops production in the first half, and 3.3 percent overall agriculture sector growth (including production and fisheries). Business is upbeat, and the Bangko Sentral's quarterly business confidence survey affirms so. Thus, there is good reason to expect that the GDP news tomorrow will be upbeat, and will certainly not disappoint.

On balance, then, we can say it's so far, so good for the economy — and that is probably an understatement.

We saw four decades, the Philippine Science High School (PSHS) has produced thousands of graduates who have performed and continued to do very many things for the country. From the crusts of this crop, only community school graduates within the top 10 percent of their class, or those certified by their school principals to have special aptitudes in science and mathematics, are admitted to the PSHS through the National Competitive Examinations. An outstanding alumni now make up a veritable hall of fame; the not are known and students in their own right. Alumni will converge at the PSHS Main Campus (Quezon there are also satellite campuses) on Saturday, Sept. 3 morning at 5 p.m. I urge all fellow PSHS alumni to attend, self-reunion is free. Sign up in advance in www.pshsmain.org or call (02) 426-0717.

* * *

E-mail: cielito.habito@gmail.com

A stepmom's worries

MY STEPSON AUSTIN is currently journeying his way to the dark and dirty world of post-pubescence. It's quite normal as she's already 13 and is in first year high school. Every now and then she's been calling me alone, her classmates leaving boyfriends and wearing makeup, and how doesn't feel like to have some sort of pink candy. She also asks me why girls get boyfriends, or why they can't have boyfriends at their age, or who chooses their boyfriends, and find the answer to be vague.

YOUNG BLOOD

Ivee Cheska Marie Esperas

As a parent I can scarcely remember her whose not getting in those things yet, or they are better now in this day and age, or the spotlight, although I would feel kinder her way from learning lessons on her own. There's one thing that's intriguing me though, and that's what if she makes mistakes and could not get out of her comfortable nest, especially when she proceeds to birth and then 101. Now if she's not my own kin, I worry about her welfare like any further would be her precious biological.

I also went through this phase called high school. It was fun, as it was terrible. I was however, very much different from my stepdaughter, as she's the "klingy" targeting girl who reminds me of Aurora Aragon, while I was the socially inept loner more so suffering from molester ADD. But despite that I was not excused from getting through the same thing she's beginning to pass presently.

My best friend had a boyfriend, and a bunch of mates. I had my own share, yes. This rather than pursuing relationships because of love, admiration and inspiration, are several relationships more because of the status symbol, the close standing and the feeling that "Oh yes, I have a boyfriend! I'm not a virgin!" As I like to say, love in a way is also disturbing, as after a few weeks of being in a relationship I felt weak and disinterested about life in general, and I lost the point of moving on together. We became bored with each other, and in the end we broke up.

My first real relationship arrived when I was in my last year in high school. It was the one person I fell for on with a whole heart, and when we broke up I was crushed into pieces and was as if left for dead. I always wanted him back, even after a few years from the time we broke up, as we still managed to be friends. However, the relationship fell on a big rock and we had to say farewell for good.

Many the longstanding heartaches was the urge that is said to be found at the easiest possible time. The time relationships lasted for only a few weeks, nothing serious, until I met my now guy who acted not just as a person for me to love and to hold, but also as a competitor in reaching for the stars goals. Our relationship broadened more of a best friend, with all the normal boys playing on in like we were man/enemies. We were partners in our own set of crimes, served as each other's support group, yes as the same time we fought endlessly until we realized that we were not in love with each other anymore.

The next months were mediocre. I had an empty heart, a broken soul, and none of all, a damaged pride. I tried on/had other interests in someone's heart but there was no target man for me, since I supposed my untutoring back. It took years, until one day I tried to look back on everything that has happened, and I realized, as I wasn't looking for love. I was just pressured to find love and belongingness from people who do not even care a damn thing. I sort of forgot of wanting all these years, but then again there's nothing I can change with the past.

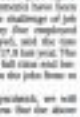
My point is, if anyone's there, perhaps I was just exposed to the wrong circumstances which I was not able to handle. I made it through though, after taking the effort of seeing myself in the mirror and starting to work on my own faults, bit by bit.

Showing my stepdaughter's ladies was a chance to connect, and hurting back I would say it was the best love as it was started in. Unlike the previous ties and times, our relationship is driven by sheer luck, friendship and romance, and we matured what we have away from the usual world of peer pressure, and from where I am standing now, I guess he and I are going in greater heights ahead of time!

One day my stepdaughter would read this and try to see if it applies to her own set of certain. But since she's relatively much normal than me, I guess with the right amount of guidance and bonding, she'll get through just fine.

Ivee Cheska Marie Esperas, 20, is a housewife and freelance writer living in Bulu, Iloilo. She currently writes for websites and occasionally contributes to newspapers and magazines in Region 6.

Dengue and Eid'l Fitr



AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

DECIDED if on everyone's mind these days, what with hundreds already dead from the current season and thousands more getting sick with the viral infection spread through mosquitoes. While task governments and private institutions across the land for environmental cleanliness and monitoring against positive breeding grounds of mosquitoes, one environmental DEED is coming help from an unusual source: to defuse the scourge of dengue.

The Buddhist Coalition now proposes the "donation" to "donate" of school uniforms and old, don't receive "as another practical measure to prevent the spread of dengue fever.

"There's a plan for our great pool of innovative designers to do something to fight against dengue. We need protective clothing items that will safeguard our children from bites, together inexpensive that by used here during daytime," said Rey Alvarez, president of Fashion Coalition of Designers.

"We're setting up our civic-minded designers to this to the occasion. Please come up with creative, more appropriate, weather suitable and affordable options that will insure children's exposure to mosquitoes is reduced to minimum to where dengue occurs," he added.

Alvarez addressed his appeal to the Fashion Designers Association of the Philippines, Fashion Designers Council of the Philippines, Fashion Designers Affiliates Manila, Young Designers Guild of the Philippines and other related associations.

Dengue fashion? See as the dressed and sweaty dozens, don't you think?

* * *

ECONOMIC Coalition also proposes a review of the safety aspects of chemical fogging and spraying operations being carried out by local government units.

"We're from saving well-meaning government personnel conducting fogging and spraying activities that have been proven ineffective in stopping the reproductive lifecycle of dengue mosquitoes," Alvarez noted.

The Department of Health discourages indiscriminate fogging and only recommends it "when there is an impending outbreak (in particular hotspots) as evaluated by the health of locals."

"We are for safety of sanitation workers and the community members at large; we urge the authorities to disseminate safety guidelines on the fogging and spraying of chemicals law the surroundings, giving due emphasis to essential precautionary measures," Alvarez said.

In addition to being the most effective measure against the dengue fever, the Buddhist Coalition is concerned over the potential harm that chemical fogging and spraying can cause to people, especially to young children and the elderly in already weakened health.

The group had earlier emphasized the importance of properly managing common household and personal wastes in the fight against dengue.

* * *

TO PEOPLE will observe this week to the feast of Eid'l Fit which marks the end of the month of Ramadan during which Muslims are required to fast and do good works.

In Metro Manila, there will be an Eid'l Fit Festival from Sept. 2-4 at the Rizal Park where activities including "parade of the ethnic tribes" and traditional Muslim Filipino and Muslim in general. The "Feast of Breaking the fast," also known as "Hariraya Puasa," is a national holiday but is observed throughout the Islamic world as "an occasion of joy and thanksgiving among Muslims, shared with non-Muslims."

Organizing the Eid'l Fit Festival is the Muslim in this Foundation, Inc. (MMFI) with the support of the Philippine Center for Islam and Democracy, the Department of Tourism, the Metro Manila Development Authority and the Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process. Proceeds will benefit MMFI's literacy and scholarship programs in Mindanao "to help improve the economic and social integration of Filipino Muslims into a modern democratic society."

Mentioned as benefits of annual activity the festival are "opportunity to create a better understanding and appreciation among Filipinos of ethnic, racial and religious diversity in the country; showcase the richness and diversity of the cultural heritage of Muslims in the Philippines, bring together tourists, students, and professionals participating between Muslims and non-Muslims; create an economic movement of cultural arts and craftsmen among Muslims and non-Muslims, and provide an attraction for tourist festivals from the islands; promotes who go on vacation during the Eid'l Fit."

The festival will have the following components: an exhibit of works by the first and only Muslim National Artist for Visual Arts, Abdulmari Imao, and the artists he has inspired; a trade fair of Muslim products; a Muslim Filipino conference on reconciliation and governance units on peace and development; and cultural presentations. The Young Muslim Professionals Network will be convening three dances, games, food, clothes and music during the cultural presentations each day at the Music Hall of the Cultural Center.

* * *

I DO hope the Eid'l Fit Festival is able to attract a sizeable crowd. At this crucial time in our history, with the peace negotiations between the Philippine government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front hopefully just on impasse, creating greater understanding between Filipino Christians and Muslims is of the most necessity and urgent.

Understanding, after all, begins with knowledge, after which, it is to be hoped, tolerance and affinity will ensue. It's also important to create a civilian constituency for peace and development, one made up of both Muslims and Christians, young and old, men, women and youth.

'Substate' or reformed ARMM: new hope for the Moro

COMMENTARY

Dr. Darwin T. Bond III

THE SOUND MUSIC meeting in Tokyo, followed by the exploratory talks in Kuala Lumpur, has rekindled the rhetoric on the sub-state issue. The Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) said it will use the discussed items in exercise for the substantive issues but prior to legal gambits, and should it fail to seek a negotiated political settlement, it will revert to its original stance to unilaterally.

The MILF has interpreted the "substate" of the Memorandum of Agreement on Ancestral Domain (MOA-AD) into its proposed "competitive compact, but retains the previous stand in conflict with the Constitution. The Supreme Court, the MILF contends, did not declare the MOA-AD unconstitutional in its entirety.

In the MILF's vision of substate, the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) remains the sole territory but would comprise other areas outside domains. It would be governed by a chief minister elected by its assembly or in Scotland and Northern Ireland. It would have "asymmetrical relational" with the national government similar to Hong Kong's relations with China. The economy would exercise all governmental powers and functions, except those of national defense, foreign affairs, postal services and coinage, which would remain vested in the national government.

The MILF has recommended a provision on the effect which would only be "appended, attached" to the Constitution.

We are faced with a categorical formula: Moro independence or outside the parameters of the negotiations while accommodating the extreme judgment into the framework of the Philippine Constitution. Would the MILF's recommendations fit within the framework of the Philippine Constitution?

Most conventional historians and political data elders have been trapped in the unitary state system that makes it not possible a compromise in the current peace talks. As a product, the proposed substate is not possible, as it will necessitate a radical reform of the Constitution to liquidate the Organic Act and abolish the ARMM. This should erase fears that the proposed substate could develop into a really separate Moro entity, thus raising a problematic situation.

Note also that the centralized executive framework be just on the negotiating table? By any stretch of the imagination, the ARMM is itself a substate and any expansion of its territorial integrity would require a plebiscite in a constitutional amendment. Any substate agreement would be a way of majority in constitutional referenda.

The "Moro Question" must be framed on a workable arrangement structured on the principle of subsidiarity and governmental powers, as well as old historical justice in order to achieve a necessary political settlement. It would be needless to accomplish here a historical analysis of the causes of the situation in the Philippines, but suffice it to say that the Moro people's identity as a distinct nation existed long before the Philippine nation-state developed only after the 1896 Philippine revolution. Since the colonial period, the Moro people have suffered internal class and religious oppression. A concept of neoliberal ideology that apologizes for the continuation of the U.S. colonial order also carries a place in contemporary debates on the Moro quest for self-determination.

The right to self-determination (SD) has evolved as a reaction against hundreds of years of European colonialism and found its early expression in successive ideals in modern history in Philippine experience, the principles of rationalist, beliefs and interests of the liberal population has engaged the framers of our 1987 Constitution to be able to do the innate pursuit of Philippine cultural pluralism, and a like was established for the creation of what is now the ARMM.

But why has the ARMM failed? The ARMM that emerged suffered from many anomalies. The territory is too outrageous. Basic and susceptible, its appearance are held hostage by short-lived dominance and constant armed conflict for economic and political power. With the adequate powers it enjoys, the ARMM failed to realize its envisioned regionality which made it ever dependent on many subsidies from the national government for its operation. And much of these subsidies were materially lost to massive corruption. The ARMM therefore, failed to develop into a full substate as it has fully accomplished even the most basic expectations of autonomous governance.

The challenge to the Aquino presidency is to show a continuum of purpose. Already President Aquino has demonstrated her willingness to reform the ARMM. He has ordered a committee which will aim to sustain the process of reform initiated with the now late Ordonez Act 10153 as substate on the coming up of a political initiative set out in order to make the "autonomous" region truly autonomous in every sense.

Whether it is a "substate" or a reformed ARMM, a new hope for the Moro uprings earned once more.

Dr. Darwin T. Bond III is author of the book "Moro Initiatives," co-founder of Ibrim ARMM Mon (MAS) coalition and chair of the Mindanao Peace Forum Philippines.

IN THE NEWS

gdarroy@yahoo.com

Mourner Gothal

The INQUIRER is a member of the PHILIPPINE PRESS INSTITUTE

Redundant audit body

LETTERS

THE NEWS report "Green auditor to check green projects if tied or fake" (Inquirer, 8/7/11) raises some questions about the role of the Commission on Climate Change (CCC). Isn't it an added expense from the national budget? All we need is for the environment agencies, with the help of the rest of the citizens, to be fully policed and well-coordinated to face the challenges of climate change.

Mon Jesus Lucille Sering, CCC's vice chair, said that the Commission on Audit (COA) can only do numbers, not green auditing. Commissioner COA can and must be entrusted to do green auditing, after all, it is about time every government agency became green-oriented in our climate change challenged times.

Erning, valio nan undersecretary for legal affairs when martial law/ma was necessary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, also said that being understaffed, the CCC will have no "man-to-police-and-survey organizations" and with the present structure for research to the development of locally manufactured electric buses, to its "green audit."

With the COA mentioned to do green audit, it can then check on the DENR, for example, whether in its just closed/ additional to do its job each. After all, it is already "cracking up" (no only with civil society but with people's organization (PO). There should be the few groups to ensure that the seedlings grown are seen to check own contentions. There may be some exemption as cited by Sering, about a Palawan mayor's claim that his constituents "don't down greenery in their area for a place to plant seedlings" just as their could get "a piece of the cake" from a "massive government reforestation project," but the POs in general can best be depended on to protect their gain/ and to check on the other hand, the Philippine National Police and the local government units do their part in preventing abuses.

Under Aquino, with feeling as biological science questionable especially in the large scale mining in the South, all given to foreign ex, were reportedly granted. In

Mabuhi, Bataan

Accountability basic step for moving nation forward

WE, THE leaders of the Kaya Natin! Movement for Good Governance and Ethical Leadership, committed and laid the Senate blue ribbon committee led by its chair, Senator "Tito" Sotto(ma) III, for investigating the anomalies of the past administration.

We strongly believe that for our country to move forward in the proper direction, accountability to the Filipino people must be upheld by all government officials. Without this basic tenet of good governance, the culture of impunity and rampant corruption will continue to partake the major concern our government, leading to more poverty for our countrymen.

The previous cases investigated by the blue ribbon committee such as illegal gambling (jueteng), the fertilizer fiasco involving former Socorro Ombudsman Merceditas Gutierrez and Maj. Gen. Carlos Garcia, the anomalous transactions of the former officials of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office, and the purchase of second-hand helicopters stacked as found-new by the Philippine National Police allegedly from former First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo, are just some of the cases that President Aquino's "sunod sa daan" and should therefore not be left unresolved.

We reiterated Senator Trillanes's call that time is often necessary for witnesses to find the truth behind these numerous allegations. We hope that Ombudsman Conchita Carpio Morales and the Department of Justice to be headed by Leila de Lima will also take the necessary and appropriate action against those found at fault.

We call on every Filipino to rest in the knowledge that a sense of accountability being brought to light at this time is to serve good people leave the fight that will prevail. Let us show them that the Filipinos are united in our fight against corruption and we assure that we will not let the perpetrators go

SEN. Teofisto Guingona III leads the Senate blue ribbon committee in the probe into the PCSO irregularities

Irregularities leaders:

—GRACE PONCE, former governor, Isabela;
ZENIA BORRERO, secretary, Department of interior and Local Government;
ARNOLD ED PARELLON, former governor, Pampanga;
ANTONIO EVANGELISTA, representative, Quezon City;
KARA BAE-AB, representative, Abra;
TERRY RAFFLEY TE, representative, Davao;
MIGUEL ALDEFIA, former representative, Bukidnon;
SONIA LEMENCO, former mayor, Santa Rosa, Nueva Ecija;
MIGUEL GUIANG III, mayor, Tagudin, Ilocos Sur;
ELIZABETH ESERIO, former mayor, Sta. Fe, Nueva Ecija;
CYCLON CLARE PEPITO, mayor, Bacolod;
ISABELO CRUZ, mayor, San Jose City, Nueva Ecija;
ELISEA CESNEDO, mayor, Caloocan, Metro Manila;
VALENTE VALDEMORO, Binalbagan, Negros Occidental;
MERLYN MACARAEG, board member, North Cotabato;
LEONARD HOSOMENA, former mayor, Tampakan, Lanao del Sur;
MARILOU NAVA-ALDEFIA, former councilor, Davao City;
FERDINAND MARCOS, former mayor, San Fernando, Camarines Sur;
FRANCIS TOLEDO, former councilor, Binalonan, Pangasinan

If you have any complaints, grievances or suggestions about the treatment of news and photos by the Inquirer, you may write to the Office of Advocacy, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue, corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, City of Makati or send a fax to this (02) 897-8703, (02) 897-8796, or e-mail reader.advocate@inquirer.com.ph

Writers of letters to the editor are requested to include their complete address and telephone number or e-mail address for verification purposes. The Inquirer will not publish any letter unless such information is supplied.

Influence-peddling, insider trading

TO THE Philippine elite, two ways to quick money are below name and license grab; in the former boom, shoddy savings and loans borrowings and insider stock market trading are treated as minors and dealt with accordingly by Federal regulators. But this isn't yet true in this country's banking gore if you can get away with it. And this may be why the Development Bank of the Philippines (DBP) stands today at the center of a scandal after the new BSP board began sniffing at various suspicious transactions of the former regime.

Starting gold and other mineral prices make a break-out/new record moving close a proper/gross leverage acquisition. Even better, a quick waste of shares provides for an excellent insider scam.

But the Filipino elite almost never risk their own cash even when risks are already minimal. In such, when a financial genius spots such a deal, he can go as yet another financial genius managing a government bank. The bank banker leverages for the needed cash, authorized of course by some powerful political figure always ready to make additional money. The bottom line is approved with stolen loans, the missing bits acquisitions is made, and an insider/crude balloons with a swift repayment of the bank loan supposedly the way to cover up any anomaly. The bank moves, the loan borrower and the political patron make a lot of money, nobody is covering all losses is rather consumption that is more badly impaired by the financial collapse of big UE and European financial houses a few years earlier.

Even if newspapers ads and PR campaigns can muddle the issues, the above hypothetical plot could be the simple explanation behind the current DBP bank-exchanges with a former trade and industry minister. It's time for Congress to step in to restore lost/ trust of DBP as the playing field in Philippine business and protect shareholders from influence peddlers and insider traders.

—JOSE CEDED,
jmcinc@gmail.com

HRET's bad name a thing of the past

I AM writing in response to the arguments/ beg 7 editorial titled "Tribunal's ruling," which stated that both the Senate Electoral Tribunal (SET) and the House of Representatives Electoral Tribunal (HRET) "do not have a good history when it comes to sending electoral disputes they are not noted for speedy justice and just resolutions of cases..."

This may be/ to be pure opposition of the HRET. However, for the previous 15th Congress, the HRET, with then Chair Gonzalez Lopez-Mendoza and the rest of the just appointees, resolved a total of 64 election protests and 2/3 quo warranto cases, the highest ever in its history. Of these 64 cases, set have already resolved 36 in a little over a year of more than half/ certainty 56 percent.).

This shows the efficiency of the present HRET despite its limited manpower and budgetary constraints.

—ARB RUFUS B. RODRIGUEZ,
Second Deputy,
Capgras de Oro City

Rebuilding Libya

WORLD VIEW

Rawah Ibayli

BENGHAZI—All months after Libyan rebels took up arms against the country's leader, Col. Muammar Gadhafi, they have finally toppled him. His rebels were not on the battlefield, they have not been in command in political and economic terms, if the rebels are to ensure their revolutionary long-term success, they will have to overcome the weaknesses that plague them.

To the days following the start of the uprising on Feb. 17, the rebels had had a political body known as the National Transitional Council (NTC) and a cabinet known as the Executive Committee. Though drawn from across Libyan society and endowed by people with professional skills, the groups have been hamstrung by several problems.

Critics have leveled the NTC's lack of transparency and straightforward about its opaque decision-making. They have also questioned the criteria used to select its members. Libya's interim council's chair, Mustafa Abdel-Jalil, has been dismissive when questioned by Gadhafi's prosecutor about the financing and deliberations to rebuild the country. If the NTC does not address these concerns, it is difficult to see how it will manage the complex challenges ahead.

It is not only the NTC's policies that could imperil the success of the Libyan uprising. Though admitted in parts of eastern Libya (as the rebel council, Abdel-Jalil is a close figure who has the confidence of many of the business leaders. Indeed, he is a provincial player who so far has been unable to command a nonpolitical base of power there.

A shortage of politically savvy leaders plagues the rebel-controlled East. Shortly after declaring the dissolution of the NTC in March, Abdel-Jalil announced that its members would not run for office. It bears discussion, that does not mean new leadership by on the political front. Because members were reluctant to leave comparatively safer rebel-held areas for fighting, they held back on forming political parties. As a result, only two parties have been created in the country that has no experience with pluralist democracy. At this point, there are very few senior commanders overseeing the changes needed to ensure the transition from an authoritarian to a democratic regime.

Other problems loom for the NTC. In July, senior military chief of staff, Abdul Fatah Younis, was killed in murky circumstances after he was summoned to Benghazi for questioning. Although the investigation into the murder of Younis has been stymied by the rebels' recent military successes, the tribe to the murdered leader and is prepared to seek retribution if the NTC cannot resolve the case.

Libya faces an outcome could split the rebels' ranks and risks plunging Libya into renewed violence at the very moment that hostilities should have ended.

The danger of civil bloodshed imperils a post-Gadhafi Libya more potently. Already, Libyan rebels in the east have warned of revenge on Gadhafi loyalists, many of whom avoided for his feared revolutionary committees. In several cities, human rights workers have reported that Gadhafi supporters have been detained in the heat to much their retaliatory. With the NTC unable to impose discipline on its soldiers, such violence is likely to increase as army soldiers and militias overcome Gadhafi strongholds.

The NTC faces a number of economic challenges as well. Before the revolution, Libya produced nearly 1.6 million barrels of oil per day, accounting for 90 percent of the country's export earnings. But, since February, the war has taken its toll, costing to disruption and damage to the oil infrastructure. In the interim, the NTC has largely survived on international aid and loans in conferring of Libyan assets by foreign governments.

But these funds have been unable to find the economy of rebel-controlled territories. Libya's economic elite (they have no) some pain their monthly salaries. Highly paid civilian have left many in the dark in cities like Tobruk, and even the rebel capital of Benghazi has experienced sporadic electricity cuts.

The war's costs could far beyond repairing oil installations and turning on the electricity. Cities such as Misurata have been ravaged by the fighting and will have to be rebuilt. But Libya lacks the technical expertise to tackle these problems. There are indeed reports, a post-Gadhafi Libya risks becoming dependent on foreign assistance, much like the Palestinians, who for largely those international aid rather than from their own economic activity.

The fall of Gadhafi and his entire/ human regime holds great promise for a people bereft of freedom for 42 years. But with the NTC having scrambled so far, it will have to redouble its efforts to ensure that it wins the peace that it fought so hard to win.

Project Syndicate

Rawah Ibayli is a research fellow at the New America Foundation.

Public warned fiercer storms to batter PH

From page A1

storms forming in the Pacific.

Servando said fierce typhoons are expected to make a landfall in September, October, November and December.

"Starting September to the last quarter of the year, we expect stronger land-falling typhoons," Servando said in an interview.

Servando noted that the intertropical Convergence Zone, the area near the equator where winds from the north and south meet and oscillate, would be moving downward to the southern hemisphere in the months ahead, bringing in these storms.

He said this would create a breeding ground for many storms.

Mike International name: Nanmadol) reach the zeenger to enter the country this year, compelling Typhoon Mina (International Storm Signal No. 4 in provinces in its path has revoked. At one point, it had maximum sustained winds of 195 kilometers per hour that were gusting at 230 kph.

As it moved away from the Philippines and headed to Taiwan and the coast of China, Mina further weakened and downgraded.

In its bulletin on Monday the gists said the storm was 160 km east-northeast of Basco, Batanes province, as of 8 p.m. with gusts of 120 kph and was moving northwest at 7 kph.

By Tuesday the storm is expected to be 330 km northwest of Batanes, the weather agency said.

Huge crop damage

The National Food Administration (NFA) said Mina came in the worst possible time.

"The palay (unhusked rice) was already growing high and ready to be harvested by September or October," NFA Administrator Angelito Banayo said.

The Department of Agriculture's Central Azzon Cordillera region reports from Cagayan, Isabela and Nueva Ecija provinces put total rice losses at P1 billion and corn losses at P600 million.

Displaced, fatalities

The Department of Social Welfare and Development reported that Mina displaced 211,092 people. The DSWD said the preventional had released over P6 million to help families affected by the typhoon.

In northern Luzon, the number of fatalities fell by Mina climbed as more landslides, drowning and electrocution victims were found by rescue workers and residents in Sunday and Monday, reports gathered by the agencies showed.

As of Monday, the death toll reached 14, with Baguio City recording the highest number at seven. Five of the victims in Baguio died when a section of a dump collapsed and buried a shanty community located in Asin Road. (A fisherman drowned off the coast of Currimao province on Saturday.)

Three drowning victims were reported in Ilocos Norte, Ilocos Sur and Abra provinces while the fourth died in a landslide in Ambuklao, Bokod, Benguet province. A 15-year-old boy was electrocuted in Bauang, Ilocos Sur province, while a man died after he tried to ride in Bangui, Ilocos Norte province.

In Baguio, reports from the City Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (CDRRMC) said two more persons died from injuries they sustained when a section of the house dump was washed away by heavy rains early Monday. (See related story on Aries Rufino, Page A8.)

Fernida Flores, 36, died on Monday at Baguio General Hospital and Medical Center, where he was being treated after he was rescued by rescue workers who pulled him out of the debris. He was the third member of the Flores family to die due to the trash slide.

The Office of Civil Defense (OCD) in the Cordillera said rescuers on Monday dug up the body of Norme Carl, 20, who was reported missing on Sunday when evacuees found her 18-year-old brother, Johnric Lent Carl.

SALT IN WOUNDS Students, employees and residents battle to clean mud-smelling wasted streets that slid off the city's denuded mountains during rain fall down on Km 5 of Asin Road at the height of the rains unleashed by Supertyphoon "Mina." Rescuers use backhoes to clear the road of tons of garbage.

In Abra, worse workers said Diedo Candido, 28, a resident of Villaviciosa town, drowned at the height of Typhoon Mina.

'Zero' casualty

In Cagayan Valley officials of the Regional Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (RDRRMC) reported no fatality despite the electrocution of Mark Jovert Navarro, 15, in Bayombong.

Chief Insp. Basilio Jugan, Bayombong police chief, said Navarro was found dead by the owner of a swine farm on Sun. day in Barangay La Torre in Bayombong.

"The victim was believed to have been trying to get electrical wire that supplied power to a nearby piggery," Jugan said, citing a roll of wire that wrapped the victim's body. A pair of pliers was found to his hand.

On Saturday, the victim's parents reported that he was missing. But the RDRRMC would not count Navarro as a typhoon-related casualty.

"That's carelessness. We cannot just count it as casualty just because one died on a day a typhoon happened," said Mitchell Tolentino, regional section officer of the RDRRMC.

The Cagayan Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (PDRRMC) said the province lost P881 million worth of crops and fish. Damage to roads, bridges and irrigation facilities was pegged at P21.1 million.

More than 300 houses were damaged in Iguig, Santa Teresita, Baggao and Aparri, municipalities in Cagayan province, reported casualties offices.

Direct hit

In the town of Gamugga, which took a direct hit from the typhoon, Mayor Carlito Tenorio, 61, placed the damage to rice crops at at least P68.5 million and to corn at P19 million.

Swirling wind and raging floodwaters also damaged agricultural roads in the town, he said.

In Ilocos Norte province, PDRRMC reports said the province lost P41 million worth of palay and other crops, while damage to public infrastructure was pegged at more than P130 million.

Gov. Imee Marcos went to Itogon City and Pasay town on Monday to assess the damage.

Tornadoes

In Barangay Mantapoc in Itogon, 11 houses were damaged by whirlwinds and strong winds through the village. Five houses in Barangay Tuding in Itogon City were also damaged.

"We are puzzled with the number of mini tornados that struck the province as a result of Typhoon Mina. We need to know what caused these so our people can prepare when a tornado or typhoon comes," Marcos said.

On Saturday, tornados destroyed houses and uprooted trees in Bartad and Lacong City.

Caught unprepared

Marcos said residents were caught unprepared after Pagasa initially reported that Mina would not cross Ilocos Norte.

"But it was not entirely Pagasa's fault because Mina was marked as by the second most intense and compounded by monsoon rains and high tide that brought so much rain," she said.

Benny Flooding was reported in 30 towns, including Laoag and Batac cities, prompting the provincial board to declare a state of calamity on Sunday.

Veggie prices up

In Benguet province, prices of vegetables increased by as much as 30 percent due to low supply of vegetables blocked roads and fog in the farms, said La Trinidad Mayor Gregorio Aloloy Jr.

Those farms provide Metro Manila's daily supply of salad vegetables.

Going Monday's trading post terminals, Alnilao said cabbage was sold for P15-20 a kilogram, while broccoli was sold for P15-20 a kg.

He said onion leeks went by to as much as P80 a kg; celery, P40-45 a kg; Baguio beans, P7 a kg; sweet peppers, P60 a kg; and potatoes, P17-22 a kg.

Roads blocked

Sections of Halsema Highway, which links vegetable farms in Benguet and Mt. Province, were closed on Saturday and Sunday. Traders have been transporting vegetables using porters, who cross through landslides to reach vegetable trucks located on La Trinidad.

Landslides blocked several roads in Mt. Province, Apayao and Ifugao provinces.

Ramon Road, the shortest route to Baguio City, remained closed on Monday due to overflowing rivers.

As of June 30, 2011, Pag-Ibig had utilized more than P60.6-billion through housing loan programs, or 60.6 percent of its total disbursement target.

Of that, P36.5 billion went to 80,000 housing loan transactions involving Sinbo Aquitaya's Xavier housing projects.

The report quoted documents showing that Sinbo Aquitaya had taken out six months as PEC billion in loan proceeds for 6,000 units in Xavier projects in Meycauayan and Malolos in Bulacan, Pampanga, Batangas, Bataan, Nueva Ecija and Tarlac.

Pag-Ibig officials, however, found that several of the loans were spurious, with the listed borrowers denying having availed of the housing loans.

Pag-Ibig officials, however, found that several of the loans were spurious, with the listed borrowers denying having availed of the housing loans.

As of June 30, 2011, Pag-Ibig had utilized more than P60.6-billion through housing loan programs, or 60.6 percent of its total disbursement target.

Of that, P36.5 billion went to 80,000 housing loan transactions involving Sinbo Aquitaya's Xavier housing projects.

The report quoted documents showing that Sinbo Aquitaya had taken out six months as PEC billion in loan proceeds for 6,000 units in Xavier projects in Meycauayan and Malolos in Bulacan, Pampanga, Batangas, Bataan, Nueva Ecija and Tarlac.

Pag-Ibig officials, however, found that several of the loans were spurious, with the listed borrowers denying having availed of the housing loans.

As of June 30, 2011, Pag-Ibig had utilized more than P60.6-billion through housing loan programs, or 60.6 percent of its total disbursement target.

Of that, P36.5 billion went to 80,000 housing loan transactions involving Sinbo Aquitaya's Xavier housing projects.

The report quoted documents showing that Sinbo Aquitaya had taken out six months as PEC billion in loan proceeds for 6,000 units in Xavier projects in Meycauayan and Malolos in Bulacan, Pampanga, Batangas, Bataan, Nueva Ecija and Tarlac.

Pag-Ibig officials, however, found that several of the loans were spurious, with the listed borrowers denying having availed of the housing loans.

Caught unprepared

Marcos said residents were caught unprepared after Pagasa initially reported that Mina would not cross Ilocos Norte.

"But it was not entirely Pagasa's fault because Mina was marked as by the second most intense and compounded by monsoon rains and high tide that brought so much rain," she said.

Benny Flooding was reported in 30 towns, including Laoag and Batac cities, prompting the provincial board to declare a state of calamity on Sunday.

Veggie prices up

In Benguet province, prices of vegetables increased by as much as 30 percent due to low supply of vegetables blocked roads and fog in the farms, said La Trinidad Mayor Gregorio Aloloy Jr.

Those farms provide Metro Manila's daily supply of salad vegetables.

Going Monday's trading post terminals, Alnilao said cabbage was sold for P15-20 a kilogram, while broccoli was sold for P15-20 a kg.

He said onion leeks went by to as much as P80 a kg; celery, P40-45 a kg; Baguio beans, P7 a kg; sweet peppers, P60 a kg; and potatoes, P17-22 a kg.

Roads blocked

Sections of Halsema Highway, which links vegetable farms in Benguet and Mt. Province, were closed on Saturday and Sunday. Traders have been transporting vegetables using porters, who cross through landslides to reach vegetable trucks located on La Trinidad.

Landslides blocked several roads in Mt. Province, Apayao and Ifugao provinces.

Ramon Road, the shortest route to Baguio City, remained closed on Monday due to overflowing rivers.

As of June 30, 2011, Pag-Ibig had utilized more than P60.6-billion through housing loan programs, or 60.6 percent of its total disbursement target.

Of that, P36.5 billion went to 80,000 housing loan transactions involving Sinbo Aquitaya's Xavier housing projects.

The report quoted documents showing that Sinbo Aquitaya had taken out six months as PEC billion in loan proceeds for 6,000 units in Xavier projects in Meycauayan and Malolos in Bulacan, Pampanga, Batangas, Bataan, Nueva Ecija and Tarlac.

Pag-Ibig officials, however, found that several of the loans were spurious, with the listed borrowers denying having availed of the housing loans.

Noli liable in Pag-Ibig mess, says Serge Osmeña

From page A1

such a huge loan without lobbying somebody.

"You know, there is always the lobbyist. Now (also) would Delfin Lee have acquired the P12.66-loan loan?" Osmeña said over the weekend.

Osmeña said it was the members of the board of Pag-Ibig Fund under De Castro, who approved the multibillion-peso loan releases to Globe Asiatique.

Last week, the justice department approved the filing of a multimillion-peso estafa case against Lee, his son and three associates, Syndicated estafa, a non-bailable offense, is punishable by life imprisonment.

The case stems from the alleged anomalous loans granted by Pag-Ibig Fund to "ghost borrowers" who had allegedly bought properties from Lee's Globe Asiatique housing projects in Pampanga province.

The Department of Justice also ordered the hold departure of Lee's son Dexter Lee, Globe Asiatique officers Christine Sagun and Cristina Salagate and Pag-Ibig Fund official Alex Alvarez.

Senior Deputy State Prosecutor Theodore Villanueva referred to the Office of the Ombudsman Prosecution Bureau for "appropriate investigation" former Pag-Ibig Fund executives Romulo Quimbo, Jaime Fabian, Tessie Gomez, Rafael Alunan and Milan Pierre for possible violations of the anti-graft law.

While Osmeña admitted there was no direct evidence against De Castro, the agency approved the questioned housing deal when Globe Asiatique officials in the latter was chair of Pag-Ibig Fund.

However, Deloitte said Pag-Ibig would not release the P12 billion to the real estate firm without board approval.

"Nobody said, 'I just be-

FORMER Vice President Noli de Castro

DELFIN LEE of Globe Asiatique

lieve it.' ...but it certainly would not have been released without some clearances from the higher ups. ...De Castro was chairman, the board, without exception. Maybe he was absent. We don't know," the senator said.

Osmeña said the decision rested not to include De Castro in the charge sheet would be "up to the evidence that is in the hands of the National Bureau of Investigation" to which he turned over documents pursued by Inquirer probers.

Charge sheet

The list that he was not included in the charge sheet proved that he had nothing to do with the alleged anomalous loan transactions, De Castro said yesterday.

He said he was not aware of the alleged bribery in the Pag-Ibig board in exchange for the approval of Globe Asiatique loans.

De Castro said the board merely met to approve policies upon the recommendation of the Pag-Ibig management.

He said he was not sure whether the loan granted to Globe Asiatique was P12 billion since he said in other reports that it was only P6.6 billion.

Previously, Vice President Jejomar C. Binay, who is chair of Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council, said the government had a very strong case against Globe Asiatique officials.

Asked about Osmeña's allegations, the Office of the Vice President said "that would be up to the Ombudsman to determine."

Binay, also the government's housing czar, is "hopeful the Ombudsman would act on the case soonest."

"All relevant documents were subpoenaed by the Ombudsman last year and Pag-Ibig attended its full cooperation," said Joey Salgado, Binay's media affairs director. Reports from Cathy C. Rotoman and Jerry Esplanada

WHAT WENT BEFORE

IN AUGUST 2010, the Inquirer published a four-part speculative report on alleged irregularities in Pag-Ibig housing loan transactions involving Sinbo Aquitaya's Xavier housing projects.

The report quoted documents showing that Sinbo Aquitaya had taken out six months as PEC billion in loan proceeds for 6,000 units in Xavier projects in Meycauayan and Malolos in Bulacan, Pampanga, Batangas, Bataan, Nueva Ecija and Tarlac.

Pag-Ibig officials, however, found that several of the loans were spurious, with the listed borrowers denying having availed of the housing loans.

As of June 30, 2011, Pag-Ibig had utilized more than P60.6-billion through housing loan programs, or 60.6 percent of its total disbursement target.

Of that, P36.5 billion went to 80,000 housing loan transactions involving Sinbo Aquitaya's Xavier housing projects.

The report quoted documents showing that Sinbo Aquitaya had taken out six months as PEC billion in loan proceeds for 6,000 units in Xavier projects in Meycauayan and Malolos in Bulacan, Pampanga, Batangas, Bataan, Nueva Ecija and Tarlac.

Pag-Ibig officials, however, found that several of the loans were spurious, with the listed borrowers denying having availed of the housing loans.

.5-M desks eyed for public school pupils

From page A1

said of the project that would see the Internet, among others, to enable students here and abroad.

"I am very hopeful that all 10 Igorot schoolchildren will assist in speeding their formative years in a more conducive learning environment," Dee said in the launch in Makati City.

Target

This time, the project aims to make a dent in the 1-million shortage in the public school system's existing capacity, said Bali Icon, executive director in both NCAP and PBSP.

The goal is to bring some 400,000 more to 2,000 public elementary and high schools in the country's poorest provinces, mainly those in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao.

"We need to provide a place here where each individual can contribute," Sawyer said, "[but] it can be done."

Sawyer said the project aims to "[make] it easy for [the] private sector to participate in nation-building."

"Our target is to build 500 classrooms per year," he said.

He said PBSP and NCAP wanted to reach out to individual donors this time, adding that the project mainly depended on "the moral impetus" in corporate sponsorship in its first outing during Gov. Aquino's time.

"The reason why we put this platform is also to mobilize many people who want to give. You'll be surprised actually that many people want to help but they don't know how. And I think it's important to be able to communicate to that to one way for them to actually do so," Lopa said.

Online facility

Donors may log on to www.projectclassroom.ph, an online facility powered by Union Bank and managed by PBSP to give their share online through credit card, debit or other convenient payment.

"This is on the spirit of people power, and President Noy has also mentioned that everybody has to do their share," Lopa said.

"The launch of this digital platform for individual and corporate giving is indeed a very welcome development as it could further scale up the very important school desk project started after my mother to complement many other classroom construction projects," Dee said.

NCAP and PBSP have long been involved in the education advocacy and are running a program to build some 10,000 public school classrooms.

Government figures show that the public school system is short by at least 66,000 classrooms to reach the ideal ratio of one classroom for 45 students.

Indon educator empowers women

From page A1

Magsaysay Awards...has done for much toward women's things in his efforts to bring about change.

In a culture largely stereotyped as patriarchal, Hasanain, 47, seeks to put women at the forefront of national change. He sought his founding school for girls in his hometown.

In picking him for the award, the Ramon Magsaysay Foundation board of trustees hailed Hasanain for "his holistic, community-based approach to personal transformation" benefiting school education in Indonesia, creatively promoting values of gender equality, religious harmony, environmental protection, individual achievement and civic engagement among young students and their communities."

Hasanain and five fellow Magsaysay awardees from other Asian countries will receive a $50,000 cash prize, a medallion and a certificate in a ceremony tomorrow at the Cultural Center of the Philippines.

Misconceptions

One would think that growing up as the son of a religious teacher, who is a similar preacher, for boys, Hasanain would simply inherit a mind set oriented toward tradition.

But it would seem that his education only made Hasanain progressive minded.

After he graduated from law studies at the Institute of Islamic Knowledge and Arabic in Jakarta, he set up the Nurul Hasanain Islamic Boarding School for Girls in 1996.

To bring his vision to life, he talked to the community and chipped away at deep-rooted misconceptions about Islam.

Ruffling feathers

"People misunderstand the sense of religious teachings ... For example, there is no teaching in religion to stop a woman from studying. I don't know where the community got their interpretation," Hasanain said in an interview at the Ramon Magsaysay Center on Roxas Boulevard.

It was a misconception that had great repercussions on national development, he said.

He might have ruffled feathers but his effort is paid off. "I just tell them: 'I am working for you, please help.'"

Begin with woman

Hasanain spoke in halting English, sometimes laughing as he groped for the right words, amused at himself. At times, he spoke through an interpreter.

Hasanain said his advocacy was rooted in Indonesian Islam's religious teachings.

"God made the 'rahim,' the womb, and 'Rahim' is also a name for God. It means that every soul has to come through the womb. It means the first watch of every one is a woman. If you want to give, and give love to the unborn, we have to begin from a woman," Hasanain pointed out.

He realized the best way to achieve his mission of empowering women was to put up an educational institution for them. From a starter group of 60 girls, the secondary school has grown to 600 students and 60 teachers, half of whom are female.

Creative methods

As a precaution, the core of the school's curriculum is still religious, but it also underscores the importance of the sciences. As a result, the school was the first in Lombok to achieve a 100-percent completed-based learning, and it now ranks No. 9 in university examinations in Indonesia.

At the start, Hasanain had to employ creative teaching methods to encourage the students to be active and to speak up.

"I would buy pens as prizes for students who would answer or [comment on] [illegible] in [illegible] activity," he recalled fondly.

Now, more female students are applying, as the school sometimes has to refuse them for lack of room. Hasanain likes it as a sign of the community's progress.

They believe that the school is good. They gain support. The buildings are built with the community. Now, women are more active, they study abroad. Also, no name-the buildings all are memories like Australia, Switzerland, Canada, to inspire on the perception of the child there," he said.

Expanding the minds

The school is also partly owned by the community through a membership option, as opposed to a traditional governance system headed only by a single leader.

The expansion of the minds and capabilities of the students are priorities of Hasanain. Its parents has school hours becoming just another "many non-" by introducing it as a core subject for civic engagement.

After all, he believes that "those who make more give. It's a big deal if you take and not give."

Hasanain said his school hopes embarked on a social forestry project which has reforested a barren 10 hectares land by giving families livestock and a harvest each to survive under a community-wide business plan.

Many ideas, no funds

Hasanain also organized 130 pesantrens in his district to lobby for transparency and dismantle accountability and reforms from government officials, especially regarding elections and use of public funds.

In Hasanain, these advocates are all ears and parents of running a school and providing education and other basic services in an impoverished area. So there are normally the job of the government, he missions have often brought him face to face with local officials.

"Yesterday, maybe 100 of the students contact pay their meals. They eat in our kitchen. If they don't pay, the kitchen closes. But if I force students to pay, they will only their wallet. What must we do ? I go to the governor and tell him: 'This are your people,'" he said.

Hasanain laments that he has "many ideas but no funds."

"I want to reach for free. I want to support the needs of my students wherever they go," he said.

Instead of being beset, Hasanain draws energy from these challenges. "I'm sure this is good for me to be able to work hard."

RAMON MAGSAYSAY AWARDEE President Aquino meets with the Ramon Magsaysay Awardees during a courtesy call held in Malacañang on Friday. The Palace ministers are, from left, Tri Mumpuni of Indonesia, Nikunja Mishra of India, Raul Pocho of Cambodia, Hasanain Juaini of Indonesia, Harish Hande of India and Dutch master engineer Aube Breugem of the Afghanistan Indigenous Group of Negros Occidental. [illegible]

Indian puts solar power technology in hands of poor

From page A1

In 1995, Harish established a company in his Bangalore hometown in India and started producing solar PV lighting systems, water heating systems and cooking stoves to meet the needs of the rural poor.

In the process, the 44-year-old engineer smashed a prevalent myth that the poor could not afford the low technology nor could their numbers and use it commercially.

The myth has been used in the way of spreading solar overhead, up and its benefits—low-off-grid energy, clean energy, mitigation of climate change and improvements in the quality of life—among the poor in India, where nearly half of all households do not have electricity.

Disasters overcoming the Ramon Magsaysay Awards—India's version of the Nobel Prize and named after a Philippine president who died in a plane crash—Harish's "passion, vision and pragmatic efforts to put solar power technology in the hands of the poor, through a social enterprise that brings customized, affordable and sustainable electricity to India's vast rural populace, empowering the poor to become economic citizens."

In an interview with the Inquirer on Friday, Harish said he has foreseen a shortfall not be locked down as more consumers. They should be empowered, he said, and treated as partners. "I have to contribute to that growth."

It was that entrepreneurial conviction that prompted the engineer to look for a concept that would allow him to put his belief into practice.

While a doctoral student at the University of Massachusetts in 1991, Harish visited the Indonesian Republic, where he met Richard Hansen, an American engineer who was then assisting households in small villages establish solar-powered lighting.

Long-term outlook

"I thought, this was exactly what Asia, India, needs," he said. "But I didn't know how to do it in a way that Indian villagers would actually adopt it."

Four apparently he on his side.

Back in the United States, Harish met Neville Williams, a former anti-Vietnam war activist who founded Solar Electric Light Fund, a nonprofit-based organization that aims to promote solar energy in developing countries.

Having just received $40,000 from the Rockefeller Brothers Fund to install solar lighting in rural Indian homes, Williams asked Harish, then a doctoral student at the University of Massachusetts, to run the project.

"But I said, I don't know how to do that. Because if you do a project, you solar photographic, those it is the fund provider and fund's in Paris, what happens to the people? Let's look at the long term. Let's look as a company. Let's look at the servicing of the lights in the long run," Harish said.

The Indian even back home to find the answers. For more than two years, he traveled to villages in Karnataka state in Southern India, living like the villagers, and trying to convince them that solar lighting worked.

Collective solution

His decision to immerse himself with the poor was brought about mainly by his philosophy.

"If I have to ask a client from a question about how life is, he has to feel that I am another doorman. Otherwise, he will say 'yes, sir'... he will not answer me with [the] point of view ... How do you see through the information chain, the hierarchy, the caste system? Let people feel they're their solution. They should not feel that it's my solution," Harish said.

Living off personal savings (that amounted to some 1,000 rupees), Harish remembered having to stay in the houses of friends and relatives at one point working as a laborer at a bar mitzvah.

"What I did and what I do is soliciting in many ways ... 'Sun, you push, push and push,'" he said.

The breakthrough came in 1993, when Harish met Arvind Sai, a farmer. Sai was unconvinced the technology would work, but his 75-year-old mother was. Harish recalled installing solar lights where the farmer was not home.

A year later, the engineers did the same to Father Thomas Mathew's church in Pavur, a village in Karnataka. This, he said, eventually created an uncommon among the poor who attended Mass every Sunday.

"Father always jokes that he is the marketing man," he said.

Inspiring youngsters

In 1995, Solar Electric Light Company District was finally established in Bangalore. There were still financial barriers to be handled. He recalled visiting rural banks at numerous times, every time bringing in poor people using his products.

Hande argued that the poor were better off with solar energy in the long run, calling the an investment in social infrastructure. "But still, rural banks—Bangladesh [illegible] and Syndicate—finally convinced bank to finance me from but the real curse.

"I can provide lighting, the banks saved in finance is, but consumers need to pay the banks," he said.

This way, he said, Solco can concentrate on its mission of helping the poor building social capital, instead of financial profit.

Despite the company being a for profit business, poverty reduction remained central to its goal.

The social enterprise has managed to install solar lights in 120,000 households, reaching more than half a million people in India. The numbers, Hande said, keeps growing.

But for more important, he said, is the awareness his company has helped create on the connection between rural and urban people was critical for the nation's progress.

"We have been able to inspire other youngsters to give up their cushy jobs in the cities and look at India's actual needs," he said with a smile. "Thus, I think as where we really have managed to make a difference."

New Yorkers gripe against hurricane hype

From page A1

turning complacent! Now here are ill-complacent is what they and into worrywarts (if worry-warts are what they become). And then, rewarding to fizzle once the danger had blown by and left them alone. They said it was much ado about —maybe not nothing, but surprisingly little.

A hurricane? It had been downgraded to a tropical storm by the time it hit Coney Island. They said with a certain blasé-disregard, for "they knew they really had nothing to complain about.

They did not have basements that flooded—Hunter, 38, lives in an apartment on the 11th floor—or buildings that slipped off their foundations in winds that were really only a bit below hurricane strength.

And they knew that their neighborhood had not shaken their nonchalance. Down the hall or around the corner were people who had spent Saturday night sleeping on the floor in the foyers of their apartments, to be comfortable out of range if a window broke and the furniture were flying.

Not a drop of rain

So for stalwarts, there was a weekend to look back on. The first time the city had ordered evacuation of low-lying areas? The first time the entire mass transit system had been shut down because of the weather? Official efforts to focus attention on preparations left them thinking the city had never always was being hoodwinked before.

"Some hurricane," said Billy Drankmaster, who lives, appropriately enough, on a 10-foot wooden boat docked off the north shore of Bayone, in Flushing Bay.

"But a drop in here," said Drankmaster, who had ignored friends when they suggested riding out the storm on land.

"I said, 'No, I'll go down with the ship if I have to.'" As he planned on Sunday resuming an epic painted the deck and he surveyed the situation after an easy night's sleep.

He said the wind and the waves in the marina had not been overwhelming. Not even close. More inconvenient than dreadful.

Ted Vasiliouw, who lives in Coney Island, had compiled with the evacuation order, but perhaps not the way officials had imagined. He kept the Upper West Side pads enchanted he was open on Saturday as the store is appreciated.

He said that staying open was a "no-brainer," and no wonder. "It was not busiest day on record."

Around 2 p.m. on Saturday the grocery clients were saying there was an eerie lonely," he said.

Making people crazy

Nader Jian's—a specialty grocery store nearby—"had a line

DARING TYE WING A young boy leans into the powerful wind near the Whitehall Terminal in Lower Manhattan just hours after Hurricane "Irene" blew through New York City on Saturday. —

as usual Because, that's when numerous elements pick up. We had our entire number of delivery orders—pickups. As the day progressed, people were more and more desperate."

Like Hunter, some who had put in their time on long lines had regrets. And the lesser ones at their hands.

"Bloomberg, he did OK, but he made people crazy and spend a lot of money," said Franklin Pizzingrave, a building superintendent in Queens, just outside the Zone A low-lying evacuation area.

He said he had spent $200 on supplies and $60 on a 30-up.

"Water, batteries, tuna fish, other food this case," he said. "For what? I believe me, people spent a lot of money on this. The tuna fish and the other food. OK, we're going to eat it. I don't mind at this water and batteries, though."

Big deal

Nathan and the women here skating, Ryan Tassiano, went out once the rain had subsided. They walked from Hell's Kitchen to the 19th Street food trucks to raise Bloody Marys. Then they walked into Central Park despite warnings that, officially, it was closed.

"The cops were telling around telling people to get out, and we were making fun of what a big deal" the storm had not been, Tassiano said.

He was pulled out his cell phone and shot a video of Tassiano standing in a puddle, pretending to be a worried newscaster doing a live report.

Fonzon's assessment

"I think it was a good three or four tail," Tassiano said. "But I think that Bloomberg will be the boy who cried wolf. He overcompensated for something, trying to get back onto people's good side after that winter storm."

He was talking about the other Christmas snowstorm that shut down much of the city.

"I was looking forward to the hurricane," Tassiano said. "But I wanted to be out, with the fans."

His biggest fear, he said, "was all the delivery and restaurants would close."

(Many, it did not, did.)

On Sunday, Tassiano said: "I woke up and looked out the window and it wasn't even raining. It was a huge fuss bill." Anne Ward (Times News Service)

Falcons sew up Final Four berth; Tams almost there

By Jaemion W. Poyo

JUST two more slots left in the UAAP Final Four.

Ateneo automatically clinched the second semifinal berth following the recent losses of La Salle and National University to the ninth basketball tournament title weekend.

The Blue Eagles' eight wins in 11 games proved good enough for a Final Four ticket as the archrivals and the Bulldogs, tied at fifth spot at 6-7, can only reach a maximum of seven wins.

Ateneo claimed the first Final Four seat and the twice-to-beat advantage—the bonus given to the top two teams at the end of the eliminations—after smacking its unbeaten run to 11 games last Sunday.

But the Blue Eagles are also on track for a 14-game elimination sweep, which will propel the defending champions straight to the finals. In this scenario, the three other top finishers will dispute the remaining title slot in a step-ladder semifinals.

"We've decided we'll just take it one game at a time, but if we do get an opportunity to sweep, we'll go for it," said coach Norman Black after Ateneo crushed La Salle, 79-61, Sunday.

The weekend results also ensured for Far Eastern University, running third with a 7-4 slate, at least a Final Four playoff.

University of Santo Tomas, meanwhile, established its hold of fourth spot at 6-5 and forging a two-win cushion over the Archers and the Bulldogs.

"The positive thing is we're two full games ahead [of La Salle and NU]," said UST coach Pido Jarencio. "We want to be in the Final Four, but there's still a lot of possibilities. We can even go for No. 2 since we're still facing Ateneo and FEU."

The Tigers downed the Archers (66-52) and the University of the East Warriors (84-61) in crunch with Karim Abdul—the recipient of the Accel-MVP UAAP Press Corps Player of the Week honor backed by Gatorade—averaging 12.5 points and 12.5 rebounds in those games.

"Karim is more consistent with his game," Jarencio said of his 6-foot-6 Cameroonian import. "He's now unstoppable inside. He has blended with his teammates and he has learned the Filipino style of basketball. He has adjusted."

Gilas stint is JV's best asset; B-Meg gets Barroca

By Jane Navarro

JV CASIO'S vast experience in international play is no doubt his finest asset.

A steady force for Smart Gilas Pilipinas the past three years, the 5-foot-9 Casio has helped the national team regain respect in the continent and rise as a contender to the coming Fiba Asia Championship.

This year's top overall pick in the PBA Rookie Draft is also hoping he could help steer the performance of the Powerade Tigers.

"It will be quite different in the PBA but I know my stint in Smart Gilas could help my team," said Casio, the smallest No. 1 pick in 25 years.

The cocky playmaker out of La Salle has established himself as the most dependable scorer in the national squad, someone Smart Gilas coach Rajko Rowman always leans on in the clutch.

Casio's sharp shooting, patience and court vision are the weapons the national team will bring to the Asian championship in Wuhan, China, on Sept. 15 to 25. The champion automatically clinches the country's ticket to the 2012 London Olympics.

Meanwhile, Mark Barroca, selected fifth overall by Shopinas.com, is headed to B-Meg Derby Ace as part of the Llamados' process deal with the Elders.

Shopinas.com will receive in exchange forward Bryan Bal, the 16th pick, from B-Meg and another Llamado from among Rommel Adducul, Jiro Abalos, Jonathan Fernandez and Mel Jamora.

A STERLING league record precedes Gilas's coach Jong Uichico.

Uichico tipped to steer B-Meg

By Musong Castillo

HONG KONG—All indications point to seasoned Barangay Ginebra mentor Jong Uichico taking up the head-coaching duties at B-Meg starting this season in the Philippine Basketball Association.

San Miguel Corp. officials are said to keep a very short list of possible replacements for Jorge Gallent, who will slide down to assistant coach after compiling a 29-24 record in his first season as PBA head coach.

The prospects of Uichico coaching a third San Miguel team in his career loomed large after Ilot Tanquingcen was named as his assistant coach at Ginebra.

That left Dickie Cua-Alasalla of Petron and Richard Del Rosario, one of Gallent's deputies at B-Meg, as the remaining candidates.

Uichico, the most experienced in the group, commands a lot of respect from the players, making him the most logical choice to succeed Gallent.

Gallent enjoyed unprecedented success as a coach of Rafinar Grains in the defunct Philippine Basketball League, but his stint on the B-Meg bench was wracked by injuries to several key players.

Under Gallent's watch, B-Meg floundered as injuries sidelined Kerby Raymundo, former Rookie of the Year Nico Salva and two-time MVP James Yap.

The Llamados finished fourth in the Philippine Cup, seventh in the Commissioner's Cup and ninth in the Governor's Cup last season.

Unlike Gallent, who is a total of eight titles so far including six with San Miguel Beer and three with the Ginebra Kings.

Ramon S. Ang, president and CEO of San Miguel Corp., told reporters last week that Gallent's replacement "will come from within the (San Miguel) family."

The owner really still charmed, however, not to indeed Alaska coach Tim Cone to the job.

Cone still has a few contracts with the only team he has coached for since 1989.

PBA board charts league's direction in HK

By Musong S. Castillo

HONG KONG—The Philippine Basketball Association's board of governors are closed to the hustling shopping haven Monday morning to chart the league's direction this season under the chairmanship of Rain Or Shine's Manuel Wendingen.

An increase in the team salary cap, the operating budget of the Office of the Commissioner, the 25th season format and a presentation by new television franchisee current TV5 will be on the table during a meeting scheduled just right at the Holiday Inn Golden Mile hotel.

The league and TV5 were supposed to ink a five-year package worth close to P1 billion, but Mendiguen, who took over from Ildefonso Payne, said that the signing would probably "happen in Manila."

"There are still some minor things left to be finished out, and they (TV5) will make representation to the board," Mendiguen said.

The format for the coming season is expected to be established, though.

It had been agreed to a previous board meeting that the PBA would continue its three-conference format, but a proposal has been tabled in which the second conference—instead of the season-ending tournament—will feature imports with unlimited height.

Mendiguen also said it is highly likely that the board will approve a P400,000 increase in the team salary cap starting this season, giving name stars room to chase big name players.

PH aces bag 4 Taipei golds

NATIONAL marksmen bagged four gold medals in the 2011 Asian Interclubs Athletics meet held over the weekend at the Taipei Stadium in Taiwan.

Reshand Clemente Ilagan, a 19-year-old lad from Cainta, won the 400-meter run in 46.42 seconds, edging teammate Ignacio Julius Torres (46.54) for the gold.

Jessery Rose duplicated Ilagan's golden finish with a victory in the men's 400m hurdles in 52.26, while leading the country to another gold in the 4x400m relay (3:11.57).

Narsisa Simmons registered a 5.60-meter leap in women's high jump to deliver the fourth gold after settling for silver in the long jump (5.57 meters).

Julius Semana placed second in the 5,000m run with a time of 14:57.35 and Rose Villacin took the javelin bronze with a leave of 47.69m.

Jana Navarro

Vettel stretches F-1 lead

SAN FRANCISCO (AFP)— Belgium—World champion Sebastian Vettel won the Belgian Grand Prix and stretched his formula One lead to 92 points in a red-hot season-two finish with Australian Mark Webber on Sunday.

The victory was the 24-year-old German's seventh in 13 races this year, with seven rounds remaining worth a maximum 175 points and the title likely to be wrapped up before the end of the season.

Webber's Aussie Holden finished third for McLaren after starting 13th in a race again dominated by tyre strategy.

Vettel has 250 points to Webber's 167 after his 170 career win. Champion Red Bull now has 426 points to McLaren's 295 and Ferrari's 235.

Reuters

Ateneo spikers out to halt SSC

SEEING takes a shot at San Sebastian's sapping win-rookie, hoping to deny the Lady Stags an outright semifinal berth in the Shakey's League season 9 Open Conference at the FEU-Diliman's Alvarez Gym.

Their confidence boosted by a four-set scare-gone of Maryknoll last Sunday, the Lady Eagles will try to stop the Lady Stags' juggernaut in the 4 p.m. encounter.

San Sebastian has racked up five straight wins, behind the scoring power display of Reginaldo Jr. Ilustre and Tyrus Sepenecosa (Down 3 On 27 Ateneo).

Ronald Gocotano (Ate II), Stag Carmelo Lasaten (CIS), Jayme Ian and Jay dela Rosa (Tagaia Dec. 11 Big Event) have 3.5 points spikes in the Jeepinan Complaint 5000-sponsored event.

Meanwhile, at least 30 bowlers will vie this Friday in the Showdown 4-Stag Derby with Danny Ty as host at the same venue.

PCC 8-stag finals on

THE MANY City Cockpit is expected to be jampacked today as the PCC Big Event 6-Stag Derby grand champ eliminations kick off with more than 60 fighters vying.

A total-of-open battle for the title is seen as qualifiers compete in the difficult 3-stag finals, according to PCC pit managers Nik dela Rosa and Berthley Ohara.

After the qualifying rounds held Friday and Saturday, four participants posted 3-0 slates—Art de Castro (Thunderbox 2 On 1st), Rhyan Ramon Nolasco (40 Hitaki), Gerry Ibanez (MAD Hitaki) and Erwin Sepenecosa (Down 3 On 27 Ateneo).

Ronald Gocotano (Ate II), Stag Carmelo Lasaten (CIS), Jayme Ian and Jay dela Rosa (Tagaia Dec. 11 Big Event) have 3.5 points spikes in the Jeepinan Complaint 5000-sponsored event.

Meanwhile, at least 30 bowlers will vie this Friday in the Showdown 4-Stag Derby with Danny Ty as host at the same venue.

US Open on as hurricane spares NY venue

NEW YORK—The US Open will start on Monday as planned after Hurricane Irene's fierce winds spared the tennis showpiece from its worst. "The hurricane ravaged through New York in the early hours of Sunday morning, knocking trees and tore trees up everywhere, but America's resolve prevailed," said Jim Bolla, chief executive officer of the United States Tennis Association. "We're ready to welcome the world's best players to the USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center and to New York City." Irene's center passed through New York in the early hours of Sunday morning, bringing winds of over 100 kilometers per hour and heavy rain. But Bolla's usual composure, after assisted hours demolition, had returned by the time the tournament's first match was played. Heavy overnight winds and rain threatened to delay the start of play in the opening night session. —Reuters

SPORTS

Editor Teddyboy S. Melendres
Associate Editor Francis T.J. Dalisay

Bring Passion to your Kiss
ORAHERB
Let nature heal us with Philosophy of Capsicum Sweet Love
Goodbye bad breath and mouth sores!
Hello long-lasting fresh breath!
KISS NOW

Sarangay rescues Cards; Chiefs score

By Cedrik F. Tupas

SURVIVE: Mark Sarangay delivered the biggest plays as Mapua survived another tight endgame, this time against Perpetual Help, 83-82, yesterday in the 87th NCAA men's basketball tournament at the FIBA-Pilipinas V-Arena in San Juan.

With the Cardinals protecting a one-point lead late in the game, Sarangay grabbed two offensive rebounds and batted two cushion-free throws with 13 seconds left as Mapua scored its third straight victory and improved to 6-6, half a game behind Lyceum in fourth.

"We're finding ways to win close games—which was our problem in the first round," said Cardinals coach Chito Victolero, whose charges also pulled off a 84-80 overtime win over St. Benilde last Wednesday.

Earlier, Arellano won for the third time in its last four outings by trouncing Emilio Aguinaldo College, 78-70.

Andrew Celada fired 23 points, including nine in the final period, as the Chiefs seized control early on before holding off a late Generals surge to post their fourth win in 11 games.

Arellano also feasted on rubbery rebounds in seldom-used Mark Dolligon, who tallied 14 points, matching Virgil Dalmacio's output.

Grand Benny Mumala stepped up in the absence of Arellano Jamalbs and almost singlehandedly carried the Generals back into the game with a 17-point third-quarter explosion that allowed EAC to limit Emilio to a 60-58 lead.

The 6-foot-5 Sarangay, known more for his defensive prowess, finished with just four points, but for Victolero, his contribution went beyond the stats sheet.

"I have to give our captain Mark (Sarangay) credit," Victolero said. "He's our leader and those were two big offensive rebounds."

In prelims' action, SSC-R overcame Arellano, 63-57, for its third straight win and an 8-3 mark, while Mapua downed Perpetual, 106-77 to pick up its record to 5-5.

HEADY PLAY Joel Jalungsod (left) of Perpetual Help is thrown off balance by a charging Jonathan Bleed of Mapua, but not before filling a pass to a teammate in yesterday's game.

MAJU Aragon of Pampanga's Armado marches a round

Paronda nails third sniper shoot gold

By Cedrik F. Tupas

SHOOT: Paronda reclaimed his throne as the country's top sniper after he completed his three-gold romp in the inaugural Philippine National Shooting Association Sniper Shooting Competition at the Tuy-uay Tactical Rifle Range in Rizal.

With the Marksman recorder making it doubly tough for pursuit, Paronda, a shooting instructor, powered up to the end, tallying 2061.79 points to beat his student, Luis Gonsalves, who wound up with 307.42.

"This wasn't easy," Paronda said of his victory in the first tournament held under the auspices of PNSA president and Marksmen Center CEO Oliver Romero.

"There's no more doubt that Paronda is one of the deadliest shooters in the country today," said Romero.

Gonsalves, a former TV director and music composer, ruled the senior/division crown.

As expected, multimedalist Lt. Jan Luz topped the master/officer/civilian-active standard division, while Lt. Gen. Roland Detabali retained the expert/officer/civilian-active crown.

The 50-year-old Luz posted 2245.37 points to lead a 1-2 finish by Army in the division. Paulsey Hilario settled for second with 2036.23 points.

Detabali sparkled with 491.72 points, beating Gendrel Mariano of the Marines with 305.17 points and Francis Pere with 303.67 points.

Express Sale
Visit the City of Flowers for only ₱488. Anda ya!
Fly to La Hermosa Festival in Zamboanga this October!
Selling Period : August 30 to 31, 2011
Travel Period : October 1 to December 20, 2011
₱488
CEBU TO ZAMBOANGA (or v.v.)
CEBU TO BACOLOD (or v.v.)
CEBU TO CAGAYAN DE ORO (or v.v.)
CEBU TO CATICLAN (or v.v.)*
CEBU TO ILOILO (or v.v.)
CEBU TO OZAMIZ (or v.v.)
CEBU TO TACLOBAN (or v.v.)
MANILA TO LEGAZPI (or v.v.)
MANILA TO MASBATE (or v.v.)
MANILA TO PUERTO PRINCESA (or v.v.)
MANILA TO TUGUEGARAO (or v.v.)
BUSUANGA TO PUERTO PRINCESA (or v.v.)
*30 kilos free baggage allowance
15 KG FREE BAGGAGE
airphil express
visit www.airphilexpress.com

Aplus METRO
Editor Abelardo S. Glamoso

DID YOU KNOW

THE also-luminous composer and teacher Lorenzo Ganding, be gan composing during World War II and wrote more than 200 original compositions. Born on Aug. 31, 1917, Ganding was dubbed the "First Lady of Philippine Music." A former president of the Cultural Center of the Philippines, she was also dean of Philippine Women's University (PWU) College of Music and Fine Arts and was known for her pioneering research into ethnic cul ture. Proclaimed National Artist for Music in 1990, Ganding died on Aug. 16, 2008. **Jikkah Bonifacio Inquirer Research**

'Robber selected victims at random'

Victim expresses relief over suspect's arrest, says she will file charges

By Miko Morales and Julie M. Aurelio

IT TOOK a while to track down the man who robbed and sexually assaulted women dentists because he picked his victims at random, an official of the National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO) said yesterday.

Senior Supt. Gerardo Gapa, NCRPO intelligence chief, told the Inquirer that the tracker teams assigned to the case spent a considerable amount of time going over the available evidence because the crimes took place in different areas and did not follow a predictable pattern.

"When we looked at the incidents, the only common factor that tied everything together was that the targets were [e-made decisions," the official said. "Other than [that], we could not establish any other elements that could serve as a pattern [which would help us go after the perpetrator]."

Following his arrest on Sunday morning, Albert Enlong dela Cruz told the authorities who questioned him that he chose his victims randomly.

He said that he would walk around an area and after spotting a dental clinic, he would go in and rob the establishment.

Gapa said that intelligence operatives stumbled upon a break in the spate of robbery-rape cases when one of the victims positively identified Dela Cruz's subject, Bonifacio Palcarpio.

The victim said that after Dela Cruz assaulted her client, he turned over the loot to Palcarpio who was waiting outside the establishment.

When the police showed her pictures from their file of known criminals, the incriminated Palcarpio through a various on his hand.

Police operatives then went to the places where Palcarpio was known to hang out. With the help of tipsters, they found him in Quezon City on Wednesday.

Upon interrogation, Palcarpio confessed that he took part in just two robberies. He also told police where they could find Dela Cruz, resulting in the latter's arrest in Pilar Village, Las Piñas City on Sunday morning.

When questioned, Dela Cruz immediately owned up to 19 of the 23 robberies recorded by the police, according to NCRPO chief Director Alan Purisima.

Gapa said they were looking into the possibility that Dela Cruz had other accomplices aside from Palcarpio because they failed to recover most of the loot he took from his victims.

"We're looking [for] other accomplices who might have sold the stolen items to pawnshops and made money out of it," he added although he declined to elaborate to avoid jeopardizing follow-up operations.

He said that they were working on the documents necessary for the filing of charges against the two suspects.

For his part, Dr. Rolvens Tipoten, president of the Philippine Dental Association, expressed relief over the arrest of Dela Cruz although he said this was no reason for him and other dentists to let their guard down.

ROBBER A 16

WHAT WILL HAPPEN WITH THOSE
"LEFT BEHIND"?

AFTER THE RAPTURE OF THE SAINTS, WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO THOSE LEFT BEHIND? MESSAGES HAVE BEEN PREACHED AND BOOKS WRITTEN, BUT WHAT DOES THE BIBLE PLAINLY SAY?

COME AND BE INSPIRED TO KNOW WHAT GOD HAS PLANNED FOR THE REST OF HUMANITY AFTER THE SAINTS ARE RESURRECTED.

SEPTEMBER 03, 2011 (SATURDAY 2:00 - 5:00PM)
FREE ADMISSION

MANILA
EDSA SHANGRI-LA HOTEL
MANDALUYONG CITY
TEL. NO. 02 995 02 94

ILOILO CITY
ILOILO GRAND HOTEL
YULO STREET
TEL. NO. 033 337 5882

NAGA CITY
VILLA CACIQUES HOTEL
MAGSAYSAY AVENUE
TEL. NO. 0920 301 2493

SPONSORED BY THE CHURCH OF GOD INT'L - [TYLER, TEXAS] PHILS.

FREE MAGAZINE
TEXT FULL NAME & COMPLETE ADDRESS TO 0917-811-6365 FOR A FREE COPY
[ALLOW 4 - 6 WEEKS FOR MAILING]

QC cops nab armed 'tuko' traders

By Penelope P. Embuscado

THIRTEEN people who said they were in the business of buying and selling geckos or "tuko" were arrested in a restaurant at North Fairview, Quezon City, on Sunday night—and for each violation found in the prohibited trade—but for illegal possession of firearms.

Acting on a tip from a concerned citizen, operatives of the Quezon City Police District (QCPD) Station 5 rushed to the Bahay Pizza Restaurant on Commonwealth Avenue and seized a cal. .45 pistol from Benito Castañeda, a 9 mm firearm and 16 live rifle from Alexander Aposto and two 9 mm pistols as well as loaded magazines from Billy Aposto.

Police records described Castañeda, 46, a resident of Abyla, Pangasinan, and Alexander Aposto, 37, from Cupas, Tarlac, as businessmen. Billy Aposto, on the other hand, said he was a farmer.

QCPD Station 5 commander Supt. Eduardo Panlilan said the three men failed to produce the required documents for their firearms and would subsequently be charged with violating Presidential Decree 1866 for illegal possession of firearms.

Through a project called "Saggip Dukot," the local government, the provincial health office and the Philippine Red Cross started going around town on Friday to accept blood donations.

Tinawi said the Centers for Health and Development (CHD) in Region IV-A had reported that the number of dengue cases in Rizal province from January until the first week of August reached 1,777.

Antipolo City posted the highest number of cases with 477, followed by Cainta with 246 and Binangonan and Taytay with 225 cases each.

Today, there have been nine dengue related deaths.

"We have not yet declared a dengue hotspot in Rizal because there is still no clustering of cases. But we are closely monitoring areas in Antipolo and Cainta," Dr. Bernadeth Victoria, provincial health officer, said.

TAGGING SPREADTERS
A traffic enforcer of the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority uses a radar gun to ensure that motorists on the Diosdado Macapagal Boulevard in Pasay City do not go beyond the 60-kph speed limit.

Blood donors needed as dengue cases rise in Rizal

By Nito Cabiya

THE RIZAL provincial government has urged residents to donate blood after the regional office of the Department of Health noted a surge in dengue cases in the area.

"Every barangay official is encouraged to come up with a mini-blood drive," Governor Casimiro "Jun-Jun" Ynares said in a press conference.

The incentive, he said, was aimed at ensuring an adequate supply of blood to any "potentially high" number of dengue cases were recorded in the province from January to the first week of August.

Through a project called "Saggip Dukot," the local government, the provincial health office and the Philippine Red Cross started going around town on Friday to accept blood donations.

Tinawi said the Centers for Health and Development (CHD) in Region IV-A had reported that the number of dengue cases in Rizal province from January until the first week of August reached 1,777.

Antipolo City posted the highest number of cases with 477, followed by Cainta with 246 and Binangonan and Taytay with 225 cases each.

Today, there have been nine dengue related deaths.

"We have not yet declared a dengue hotspot in Rizal because there is still no clustering of cases. But we are closely monitoring areas in Antipolo and Cainta," Dr. Bernadeth Victoria, provincial health officer, said.

While P-Noy works, Binay starts campaign early

A 32-YEAR-OLD ex-convict, Alberto Valdez dela Cruz, has been arrested by the police on suspicion of robbing and raping several children.

The arrest came after three long months of surveillance.

"It's him," said two of several 13 of Delia Cruz's alleged victims when they saw him in a police line-up at the headquarters of the National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO) at Camp Bagong Diwa, Taguig City.

The NCRPO, under Director Nicanor Bartolome, should be congratulated for a job well done.

* * *

"The long arm of the law has finally caught up with the criminal" is a cliché, but it aptly describes the case of Delia Cruz.

After three long months of painstaking work—of course, under public pressure—the police caught the robber-rapist.

When I was a police reporter covering the Manila Police District (MPD), I often called the Western Police District, a cop-out of unsavory sorts, then Col. Bernard Halili, who's now marking with Manila Mayor Fred Lim— told me that no case would ever go unsolved if only police work hard.

Delia Cruz's arrest proved that no matter what's a criminal's index, the law will catch up with him.

* * *

If Delia Cruz had opened in Davao City, local vigilantes would have played a racing game with the police in catching him.

The DDE or Davao Death Squad—some residents say its a different meaning to DDE—would probably have

ON TARGET
ALVARADO TRIÑO

beaten the police to the save.

And Delia Cruz, who had served a nonsense outline at the Correctional Institution for Women, would have been dead a long time ago.

And evildoers wouldn't have given a hoot if he was stationed within the bowels of a comfort room.

Most people—in Davao City and elsewhere—are sick and tired of that warm-ass phrase, "due process of law."

* * *

An unimpeachable source told our dear former interior and Local Government Secretary Ronaldo Puno is to Chinese to meet up with President Noy who is leaving for a state visit in that country today.

Puno, according to an answer, arrived in China days ahead of the state visit.

He and his fellow members of Kampi are organizing a new political party supposedly in accordance with P-Noy's Liberal Party.

Like someone else said, in politics, there are no permanent enemies, only permanent interests.

* * *

While the President is working in hard, or not so hard, whatever role you are on—his vice president, Jojo Binay is campaigning very early.

Binay's tub-thumping boys have been sending a barrage of text messages to cellphone owners here are just two examples of the many:

"Binay-nemarks PUBH (Private Development Assistance Fund) ko sa mga vulnerable sectors.

"Yes! President Noynoy ni-say has earmarked his pork barrel allocation for 2011 to build or rehabilitate 200 evacuation for some climate vulnerable."

* * *

Whatever replaces Customs Commissioner Lito Alvarez should reshuffle the customs bureau from top to bottom.

Nobody should be spared in the revamp.

Officials of customs and collector that handled the 1,000 containers that disappeared without a trace should be replaced.

Otherwise, corruption will remain as the second highest revenue collection agency.

Robber...

From page B-9

One of Delia Cruz's victims said that after the robbery, she stopped accepting walk-in clients even though it meant a loss in income.

"He's not the only robber in the world so I've taken certain security precautions," she told the business yesterday.

Although it has been more than a month since Delia Cruz walked into her clinic in Quezon City and robbed her, she confessed that she still has to recover from the ordeal.

"While in clinic [session for] around 40 pieces of [my patients] but then I'll rather not tell my life-the [enemy]," she said.

He arrest, however, has encouraged some of her appointments.

"I went back to work a month after the incident. I am more calm now. I am glad that he has been caught," she said.

According to her Chief Inspector Nestor of the NCRPO added how he on Sunday morning to roll her since Delia Cruz's arrest.

She said she would file charges against him along with the other victims.

Her husband's backpack, which Binay charges against him in court before the hope of the five-day period within which he is allowed to file a motion for reconsideration.

Sandigan suspends proceedings in case vs ex-Pasay City officials

By Leila B. Salaverria

THE SANDIGANBAYAN has deferred its proceedings in the criminal case against former Pasay City Mayor Pretchel Trinidad and other city officials allegedly involved in the questionable bidding for the construction of the P168 million Pasay City Mall and Market in 2004.

The antigraft court's First Division allowed Trinidad to file a motion for reconsideration in the Office of the Ombudsman, and directed the latter to resolve his pleading and that of his co-accused within 30 days.

But the court denied the plea of former city councilor Jose Antonio Bulat to recall his arrest warrant and the judicial determination of probable cause for lack of merit.

Mercedes Arenas and Inda and Amabelle Asuncion (RAC) representatives Joselito Bautista and Alexander Santos were earlier charged with violation of the antigraft law in relation to the government procurement reform act, and of the Revised Penal Code provision against conveying duties because of the negligence.

The Sandiganbayan said it was allowing Trinidad to file a motion for reconsideration in the Office of the Ombudsman to allow him to exercise his right to a full preliminary investigation.

Trinidad earlier contended that he was denied his right to due process when the Ombudsman filed the charges against him along with the other suspects.

Her husband's backpack, which Binay charges against him in court before the hope of the five-day period within which he is allowed to file a motion for reconsideration.

Young girl with developmental problems in need of help

By Santiago R. Riveraos

SHIRLEY Cuizon, a 7-year-old girl who has been diagnosed with global developmental delay is one the "few drugs few months" kind of treatment at Philippine General Hospital, her mother, Shirley told the Inquirer.

"She is taught to sit in preparation for standing and after standing, she will be taught to walk. Ilgawin will some sense... Ang iyo kasalig a girl ngayon ay a baby's body," the single mother from Malate, Manila, said.

Shirley added that despite her daughter's age, she has yet to sit down, stand up, walk and speak, much less—or solid food. For now, she is fed baby food through a medicine dropper.

She said that her daughter was born at eight months and that baby upon rescued a half months at the intensive care unit of Valenzuela Hospital as a result.

Due to the cost her

CDCSSN

daughter needs, Shirley said she has not been able to work for a living. "Then only husband is pending for help from the construction workers of your paper," she said in Pilipino.

Those who want to help Shirley and her baby can call 0915-9-9-0-1-0-1-0 or deposit cash to deposited at Shirley's BDO account with account number 0018109000314969.

Police team storms bank after employee trips alarm

By Jeannette I. Andrade

OPERATIVES of the Manila Police District (MPD) were prepared for the worst when they rushed to a bank in Ermita, Manila, after its alarm went off yesterday morning.

But while members of the MPD headquarters the bank teller identified as Jovanie Cruz Villegas, his co-worker and their three security escorts from Gen Security Agency.

"They had to be investigated further because we had to make sure that they were authorized to be inside the bank on a holiday," Dr. Ornopia said.

Villegas and company were eventually released after the bank confirmed that they were authorized employees.

METRO BRIEFS

'Smooth-talking' robber strikes in QC

IT was a robbery which could have been based on a scene from a "telenovela." An executive producer of television network GMA 7 identified as Michelle Borja, 35, was robbed in her own home on 7765 Jamboree Street in Quezon City after a man gained access to her home by pretending to know her work mate. The "smooth-talking" robber had no weapon but he managed to take her iPhone, iPad and wallet containing P2,000 in cash in addition to other bank and credit cards when she left him alone for several minutes on Sunday noon, reports inside her house. The robber then sped away with a black motorcycle with control No. 8813. The unidentified suspect claimed he was the nephew of a landowner searching for Borja's friend, another executive producer named Kevin. He then asked for help in tracking down Helen Delabaco the latter reportedly owned him a huge amount of money. SPO1 John Sales of the Kamuning Police Station said the victim refused to file a case—claimed "Inspirational"—as the suspect who was described as being in his early 40s, of stocky build and had brown complexion.

Penelope P. Embuscado

Cop, cohort arrested for stealing motorcycles

POLICE arrested in Caloocan yesterday two men—including a policeman—believed to be involved in a string of motorcycle thefts in Taguig City. SPO1 Jonathan Pingala of the city's antitrust theft unit identified the two as Jerome Antonio, 31, and PO1 Eduardo Lumbay who is assigned at the District Public Safety Battalion of the Southern Police District. Both men were arrested in separate entrapment operations conducted on Monday night. Lumbay's arrest came after at around 7 p.m. while Antonio was collared two hours later. "One of our informants told us that Lumbay was selling stolen motorcycles. PO1 Ramon Bautista joined as a buyer and contacted the man [seller]," Pingala told the newsmen. Pingala said that there were reports that another policeman was with Antonio during the transaction. "But the policeman, whoever he was and if the reports are true, was wise enough to keep his distance," Pingala added. Both Lumbay and Antonio were arrested and the two Yamaha motorcycles they were supposed to sell were seized. Meanwhile, Senior Insp. Gaylord Tamayo, Caloocan chief, said the police will continue trying to determine the real owners of the stolen motorcycles. He said that criminal charges would be filed against the two men.

Cecilio Vince Magsaysay

For Lockerbie planner, near death, no extradition

AL-MEGRAHI in photo taken on Sept. 5, 2009.

TRIPOLI, Libya—An official with the rebel government on Sunday ruled out extraditing the former Libyan intelligence officer convicted of the mastermind of the 1988 bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 and released from a Scottish prison two years ago on the ground that he was near death.

The Interim Transitional National Council's role in the bombing over Lockerbie, Scotland, which killed 270 people, 189 of them Americans. But it would also remove a potentially serious point of friction between the rebels' fledgling National Transitional Council and its Western backers.

Politicians and lawmakers in the United States had begun calling for his return to finish answering for bombing. But the justice minister of the transitional council ruled out an extradition on Monday, and calls for his return had been mounting as the Libyan revolution unfolded.

The rebels' resolve to protect the former officer may prove only briefly relevant, however. Just hours after the official spoke, TNC reported that al-Megrahi was near death at his villa in the capital here, broadcasting images of a frail man lying unconscious in an oxygen mask.

Al-Megrahi's death would end the possibility of eliciting his full account of the Libyan government

The WORLD

Edita Laverne B. Suico

Is climate change worsening hurricanes?

THE SCALE of Hurricane "Irene," which has caused extensive damage estimated at $7 billion mostly along the Eastern Seaboard, is reviving an old question: Are hurricanes getting worse because of human-induced climate change?

The short answer from scientists is that they are still trying to figure it out. But many of them do believe that hurricanes will get more intense as the planet warms, and they see large hurricanes like Irene as a harbinger.

While the number of the most intense storms has (luckily) been rising since the 1970s, researchers have come to differing conclusions about whether that increase can be attributed to human activities.

"On a longer time scale, I think—but not all of my colleagues agree—that the evidence for a connection between Atlantic hurricanes and global climate change is fairly compelling," said Kerry Emanuel, an expert on the issue at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Among those who disagree is Thomas R. Knutson, a federal researcher at the government's Geophysical Fluid Dynamics Laboratory in Princeton, NJ. The rising trend of recent decades occurred over too short a period to be sure it was not a consequence of natural variability, he said, and statistics from earlier years are not reliable enough to draw firm conclusions about any long-term trend in hurricane intensities.

"Everyone sort of agrees on this short-term trend, but then the agreement starts to break down when you go back longer term," Knutson said. He argues, essentially, that Emanuel's conclusion is premature, even while conceding that evidence for a human impact on hurricanes could eventually be established.

While scientists from both camps tend to think heavy rainers are likely to intensify, they do not have great confidence in their ability to project the magnitude of that increase.

One climate-change projection, prepared by Knutson and's group, is that the annual number of the most intense storms like will double over the course of the 21st century. But what proportion of those would actually hit land is unclear, largely because future changes in atmospheric currents or other traits of the atmosphere that influence hurricane behavior.

Storms are one of nature's ways of moving heat around, and high temperatures at the ocean surface tend to feed hurricanes and make them stronger. That appears to be a prime factor in explaining the power of Hurricane Irene, since ocean temperatures in the region are well above their long-term average for this time of year.

The ocean has been getting warmer for decades, and most climate scientists say it is because greenhouse gases are trapping extra heat from the sun. Rising sea-surface temperatures are factored in to both Knutson's and Emanuel's analyses, but they disagree on the effect that matching to remove areas of the tropics will have on future hurricanes. *New York Times/Asian Service*

New York spared brunt of 'Irene'; suburbs hit hard

NEW YORK–Tropical Storm "Irene" swept through the desolate streets of New York City on Sunday, flooding low-lying areas and leaving millions of homes without power along the Eastern Seaboard as it continued on to New England. Most New Yorkers emerged from their makeshift bunkers to find little of the widespread devastation the authorities had feared.

WAVES break along the pier which was damaged during Hurricane "Irene," in Ocean City, Maryland, on Aug. 28. REUTERS

The storm, which was downgraded from a hurricane shortly before it hit New York, attacked in a flurry of gunshot. A police source in Cranford, NJ, flooded and had to be evacuated. Firefighters paddling in boats rescued many from the Lake Road section on Staten Island. New York's major airports were closed, and at least four storm-related deaths were reported in New York state and New Jersey.

But after weeks ranging preemptive evacuation by city officials that included shutting down New York's mass-transit network, sandbagging storefronts on Fifth Avenue and issuing evacuation orders for 370,000 people across the city, Hurricane Irene is likely to be remembered by New Yorkers more for what did not happen than for what did.

Windows in skyscrapers did not shatter. Subway tunnels did not flood. Power was not shut off preemptively. The water pool did not top. There were no reported fatalities in the five boroughs. And the storm flooding Manhattan did not overrun their banks.

Still, while the center of the storm ambled over New York City, about 9 a.m., winds had reached 60 mph, making Irene the largest storm to hit the city in more than 25 years, even as the bulk of the storm's power was reserved for the suburbs.

"All in all, we are in pretty good shape because of the exhaustive steps I think we took to prepare for whatever came our way," Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg said at a news conference on Sunday afternoon.

Before nothing New York, the storm left a path of wreckage that killed at least 16 people, paralyzed most modes of transportation across the Northeast and caused flooding in several states.

Many homes were without electrical power outages and flooding. President Barack Obama said, "which could get worse in the coming days as rivers swell past their banks."

New York's economic costs have yet to be calculated, but with Broadway dark, storefronts closed in plywood and virtually the entire population deserted to, down, the weekend's lost sales and storm damage could end up costing the city about $6 billion, said Peter Blair Henry, an economist at the University of Maryland. The total national cost would reach $40 billion, Moody added.

Outside New York City, the storm's wrath was swift. In New Jersey more than 800,000 customers were without power on Sunday and the state's largest utility, Public Service Electric and Gas, estimated it would take a week to restore electricity to all of its customers. In Connecticut, 670,000 customers—roughly half the state—had lost power, a number that surpassed power failures caused by Hurricane Gloria in 1985.

Gov. Chris Christie of New Jersey said more than 300 roadways were blocked, but he insisted that dire predictions were still to come, particularly along the Delaware, Passaic and Passaic rivers.

"The real issue that we are going to have to deal with now is flooding," Christie said.

Flooding in Philadelphia reached levels that had not been seen in that city in more than 140 years. Belmont was also struck particularly hard: even as the worst of the winds had dissipated, flooding forced officials to evacuate parts of southern Vermont, and floods were expected in the northern portion of the state as late as Monday.

In New York, Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo said it could take a week to fully restore power to the 750,000 customers without electricity. That included 457,000 on Long Island, 181,000 in Westchester County and 34,000 in Queens, officials said. Consolidated Edison said power was not cut in Manhattan.

Obama said that though the storm had not proved as strong as many feared, the aftermath would be quite serious.

"The impacts of this storm will be felt for some time," he said on Sunday from the White House. "And the recovery effort will last for weeks or longer. I want people to understand that this is not over."

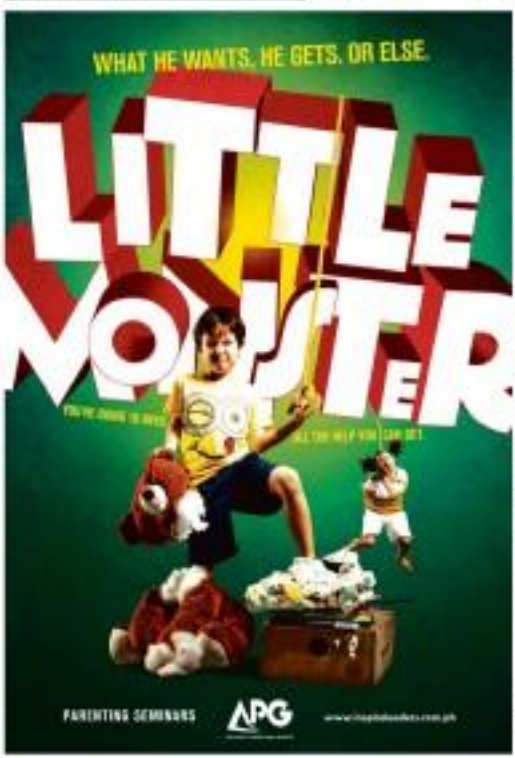
But despite the lack of power, flooding and felled weekend plans, the soggy Northeast's collective mood shifted on Sunday from dreaded to relief.

In New York, joggers, not fleeing sewers, were spotted along the East River Greenway; bookstores and bars reopened. Traffic picked up, and officials at the US Open announced that the tournament would begin on Monday after all.

By 11 a.m., with the sun peeking out, tourists flocked to Central Park even though police officers shooed them away for fear of falling branches.

"I slept like a baby," said Steven Barone, a homeless man who rode out the storm in a shelter in the East Village. "Somebody must've laid it to bed."

Despite the region's relative good fortune, many applauded the preparations for a worst-case disaster. *NY Times News Service*



Japan's Finance Minister Noda chosen to be new PM

TOKYO–Finance Minister Yoshihiko Noda was chosen on Monday to become Japan's sixth prime minister in five years, but function-to-function is thrilled parliament could delay rifts in the ruling party if he is to make more of a mark than his predecessors.

Noda is considered a safe pair of hands to lead the world's third-largest economy but doubts that deep as to whether he will have sufficient support and stay in it for long enough to tackle a long list of economic woes and cope with a nuclear crisis.

The 54-year-old Noda, who delivered Trade Minister Banri Kaieda in a run-off vote in the ruling party, must deal with a resurgent opposition that threatens to derail his new energy policy while ending the worst nuclear crisis since Chernobyl, and find funds to rebuild from the March 11 tsunami at a time when huge public debt has already triggered a credit downgrade.

"He has inherited all the same problems—a divided parliament, a divided party, a strong yen, a Tohoku (northeastern Japan) desperate for progress on reconstruction and an early end to the nuclear crisis," said Jeffrey Kingston, director of Asian Studies at Temple University's Japan campus.

"I think the honeymoon will be very short-lived."

No Japanese prime minister has lasted much more than a year since 2006 and most earlier players pulled by factions this month thought the next governmental head would be no exception.

Noda, who will be confirmed by parliament on Tuesday, will be the third premier since his ruling Democratic Party of Japan swept to power in 2009, promising change.

Instead of a deep debate over how to jolt Japan out of decades of stagnation, the party vote had turned into a battle between allies and critics of Ichiro Ozawa, a wily old political master-mind who heads the party's biggest group even as he faces trial on charges of misreporting political donations.

Kaieda, backed by Ozawa, got 177 votes in the run-off while Noda, supported by Ozawa critics, won the backing of 215 deputies.

Analysts said despite the defeat of his candidate—roughly half the members of the party, a number that surprised many—Ozawa's influence remained powerful.

"The real issue that we are going to have to deal with now is flooding," Christie said.

Flooding in Philadelphia reached levels that had not been seen in that city in more than 140 years. Belmont was also struck particularly hard: even as the worst of the winds had dissipated, flooding forced officials to evacuate parts of southern Vermont, and floods were expected in the northern portion of the state as late as Monday.

In New York, Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo said it could take a week to fully restore power to the 750,000 customers without electricity. That included 457,000 on Long Island, 181,000 in Westchester County and 34,000 in Queens, officials said. Consolidated Edison said power was not cut in Manhattan.

Obama said that though the storm had not proved as strong as many feared, the aftermath would be quite serious.

"The impacts of this storm will be felt for some time," he said on Sunday from the White House. "And the recovery effort will last for weeks or longer. I want people to understand that this is not over."

But despite the lack of power, flooding and felled weekend plans, the soggy Northeast's collective mood shifted on Sunday from dreaded to relief.

In New York, joggers, not fleeing sewers, were spotted along the East River Greenway; bookstores and bars reopened. Traffic picked up, and officials at the US Open announced that the tournament would begin on Monday after all.

By 11 a.m., with the sun peeking out, tourists flocked to Central Park even though police officers shooed them away for fear of falling branches.

"I slept like a baby," said Steven Barone, a homeless man who rode out the storm in a shelter in the East Village. "Somebody must've laid it to bed."

Despite the region's relative good fortune, many applauded the preparations for a worst-case disaster. *NY Times News Service*

NODA

Noda, 54, inherited all the same problems—a divided parliament, a divided party, a strong yen, a Tohoku (northeastern Japan) desperate for progress on reconstruction and an early end to the nuclear crisis," said Jeffrey Kingston, director of Asian Studies at Temple University's Japan campus.

"I think the honeymoon will be very short-lived."

No Japanese prime minister has lasted much more than a year since 2006 and most earlier players pulled by factions this month thought the next governmental head would be no exception.

Noda, who will be confirmed by parliament on Tuesday, will be the third premier since his ruling Democratic Party of Japan swept to power in 2009, promising change.

Instead of a deep debate over how to jolt Japan out of decades of stagnation, the party vote had turned into a battle between allies and critics of Ichiro Ozawa, a wily old political master-mind who heads the party's biggest group even as he faces trial on charges of misreporting political donations.

Kaieda, backed by Ozawa, got 177 votes in the run-off while Noda, supported by Ozawa critics, won the backing of 215 deputies.

Analysts said despite the defeat of his candidate—roughly half the members of the party, a number that surprised many—Ozawa's influence remained powerful.

"He is still important, though not as important as he was," Temple University's Kingston said.

Noda's rise to the top job could mean some friction with China after he recently repeated that Japanese wartime leaders convicted by an Allied tribunal after Japan's defeat in World War Two were not "war criminals" under domestic law.

He has also said China's rapid military building and expanding naval activities pose a serious regional risk and stressed the importance of the US-Japan security alliance.

"Noda's attitude towards China has in the past been somewhat hardline, and he has close relations with the United States, which would not be favorable for China-Japan ties," said Sun Cheng, an expert on Japan at the China University of Political Science and Law.

"However, he has been more accommodating on his views, and I think he will want to maintain stability in China-Japan relations," Sun added.

Bond markets welcomed the choice of Noda, who among the candidates was the only one consistently calling for Japan to ban painful reforms to curb its massive debt.

"Let's do the utmost to tackle the issue we have presented and if there's not enough money, we might ask the people to share the burden," Noda said before the vote.

The finance minister, who knocked out rivals Trade Minister Banri Kaieda and Foreign Minister Seiji Maehara—the favorite of ordinary voters—in the first round, is expected to meet business leaders in the near future.

The newly crusty lawmaker compared himself to a "dried" bonito fish—an oft-like inhabitant of the deep.

"I do look like this and if I become prime minister, the support rate would not rise, so I would not call a snap election. A bonito has to wear clothes even though it cannot do so a goldfish does."

Noda has said Japan should not build new atomic reactors, effectively phasing out nuclear power over 40 years. But he wants to restart off-line reactors after safety checks to avoid a power crunch. *Reuters*

IN THIS ISSUE

■ PSE seen to benefit from global wave of mergers /B2

Editor Raul G. Manuelo ● Assistant Editor Corrie S. Mariano

BUSINESS

BSP: Inflation to stay well within gov't cap

By Michelle V. Remo

Gov't cites improvements in country's food supply

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas does not expect inflation to breach the 5-percent threshold this year, citing the improvement in the country's food supply and declining prices of imported goods.

According to Bla. Cpl. Nestor Amador, assistant governor at the central bank, there are signs that inflation will remain manageable over the short term.

Amador cited the growing output of the agriculture sector, which she said would help boost supply of food products and thus temper food price pressures.

She also said the weak global economy, driven by sluggish growth observed in the United States and some European countries, would temper demand and affect prices of of some imported goods. In turn, domestic inflation may be pulled down.

"We see some dampening of inflation pressures coming from basically the weakness of the global economy which translates to some softening of global commodity prices through weaker demand," Amador explained. "Agriculture output has turned favorable ... that should be a considerable factor [serving to] stem the tendency of inflation to accelerate."

Latest inflation data from the National Statistics Office showed that the annual rate of increase in consumer prices stood at an average of 4.3 percent in the first half of 2011, well within the government's inflation cap of 5 to 5 percent for the full year.

In the second quarter, the BSP said there was a chance that annual inflation could go beyond 5 percent in the third quarter, but stressed that the full-year average would stay at or below 5 percent.

But since then, Amador said, price pressures have eased because of diminishing fears and abroad.

Inflation pressures seen earlier this year had prompted the BSP to raise interest rates and the reserve requirement for banks. It explained that the moves were necessary to temper price pressures.

Early this year, the BSP raised its key policy rates, which influence commercial interest rates, by a total of 50 basis points. Overnight borrowing and lending rates now stand at 4.5 and 6.5 percent, respectively.

The interest rate hike was meant to temper demand for bank loans, which

BSP B2

INDICATORS

PESO-DOLLAR RATE

Aug. 26, 2011

42.430

August

On Holiday

TRADING has been suspended today to mark the end of the Muslim observance of Ramadan. The market will resume trading tomorrow.

No longer happy with LV, counterfeiters set on Hermes

By Abigail L. Ho

THE NUMBER of fake Louis Vuitton (LV) products in malls at the Greenhills Shopping Center (GSC) has dropped by 60 percent as counterfeiters shift to Hermes.

According to a report LV country representatives filed with the Intellectual Property Office of the Philippines, there have been fewer sightings of fake LV items at GSC, unlike before when imitation products proliferated the popular Greenhills tangge area.

"Hermes has replaced LV, but IPOPHL has not received any complaint from Hermes. We need a complaint from Hermes so that we can include it in the regular monitoring," said Chester Jeroen Cleva, of the IPOPHL secretariat.

More than 20 brand owners have submitted affidavits to IPOPHL, signifying their desire to be more vigilant in protecting their brands.

Six brands were initially pulled out from GSC malls on Dec. 16, 2010, following a letter of request that IPOPHL director general Ricardo Blancaflor sent to GSC administrator Catherine Ko.

The brands included DC Gucci,

AND ATHLETE B2

PSE seen to benefit from global wave of mergers

'Local bourse well positioned for consolidation'

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE CURRENT trend toward market integration across the globe is seen favoring the demutualized Philippine Stock Exchange, making its stock a good target and acquisition candidate in the near future, according to a research study.

Jose Blas Lazaro, head of research at local stockbrokerage Campos Lanuza & Co., noted in the recent study that the PSE is pushing for consolidation on two fronts — domestically with the bond market and regionally with other Southeast Asian stock exchanges.

"The current activities lead us to believe that the company may be trying to enhance its appeal and be part of the growing trend of stock exchange mergers," Lazaro said.

While the Philippine bond and stock exchange unification was still in the conceptualization stage, Lazaro noted that the PSE was already implementing its part in the trading integration of Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) countries.

The establishment of an Asean trading link, Lazaro said, was the "stickiest" part of the plan and an area where the brokerage house was most concerned with.

"Apart from execution risk, threats of merging with a larger exchange may also be impeding the company's attention to risk assessment and other market reform issues. Ultimately, however, the entry of a new investor may just be what PSE needs to stay regionally competitive," he said.

Campos Lanuza has a "buy" recommendation on PSE and has upgraded its target price to P550 from P250 per share. Last Friday, the PSE's share price closed at P320 per share.

Lazaro cited some key strengths that the PSE could offer to potential investors:

• Low replacement cost for trading system as the PSE has just completed the commercial launch of PSETrade, the new trading system purchased from the NYSE.

• The PSE was established in 1992 as a merger of the Manila and Makati Stock Exchanges, both of which have a very long corporate history—far older than many of its peers.

• The PSE has a "fairly strong" regulatory and control framework. In view of the SW Resources scandal, the PSE has invested a lot in market regulation and corporate governance controls. It has systems that comply with anti-money laundering laws and the Securities Regulation Code (SRC).

• Although the multiples may say that PSE is not a bargain, on an absolute value perspective, the exchange may be affordable. The local stock exchange is cheap as the market capitalization of the company is only $270 million in contrast to SGX of Stocks Malaysia, which have market capitalizations of $6.3 billion and $1.4 billion, respectively.

Despite its strengths, Lazaro acknowledged that pushing for the sale of PSE may be difficult because the SEC prevents any single shareholder from owning more than 5 percent and any shareholder group or industry from owning more than 20 percent of the outstanding capital. PSE, however, has secured exemptive relief from this rule as the trading participants and some shareholder groups are actually in excess of this legal limit.

Another key issue is whether the controlling shareholders are willing to part with their shares, Lazaro said, noting that trading participants own an estimated 32 percent of the outstanding shares of PSE, and are supposedly the single biggest shareholder group.

Revisiting SCC

MARKET RIDER

Dave Sumaoang

LAST May I made a review on Semirara Mining Corp. (SCC). The previous printed item in the review was if SCC was still a good buy, considering that its share price had gone up already a long way.

At the time of review, it was trading just about 6.61 percent away from the then recently-established high of P264 per share on March 22.

At the time of the review too, SCC's share price has grown by no less than 53.61 times since the time eight years ago or, following the originally-established market price of P3.40 a piece in 2002.

By that time then as well, SCC's first quarter earnings results just came out. Net income amounted to no less than P4.73 per share.

Considering that SCC had just improved its cost operations (its main source of revenue and income), it looked fairly reasonable to assume that it could consistently repeat the said quarterly earnings performance for the year. In that sense, it appeared that SCC's market price of P222.80 a piece was then trading at about 11.76 times earnings only.

At the industry average of about 14 times earnings, the said earnings multiple comparatively looked inexpensive enough. Further supported by the P16 per share cash dividend announced on April 7 (for stockholders of record of May 27—to date May 24—and payable on June 22), SCC's price—though far from being a bargain—should still be a good buy.

Ensuing period

Added to the above considerations, SCC share prices had started to move sideways after sliding down since it hit P264 per share. The way taken to mean that it may be near its bottom price.

Being inclined to be a "bottom picker" rather than a "trend follower" in most times, I felt it was time to decide.

But SCC's price slide did not stop there. It continued to fall deeper until it hit the low of P157 a piece on June 14.

Not long after, the price of SCC rebounded. In a month's time, it was within a striking distance—as seen now—of its all-time high of P264 per share. On July 22, it hit the high of P262.50 per share. Thereafter, its price swung back to the opposite direction to hit the low of P190 per share on Aug. 9.

Reported in the papers last week to be included in the new incorporated Philippine Stock Exchange index (PSEi), SCC's price started to climb back.

As of last Friday, the price of SCC hovered within 4 percent higher of its supposed adjusted price (after such dividend payments) of P231 to P234 per share.

Bottom line spin

Obviously, the market price of SCC had been influenced by both technical and fundamental factors, with its price lines more distinctly technically affected.

Fundamental influences, on the other hand, are responsible in holding back its price spiral—not letting it get too high. Topping the list of its personal lines, SCC's total net earnings for the year may no longer grow much further in the second semester.

As described in the papers, its coal mining operations seems to have been "maxed out." Its power generation revenues will be limited by the scheduled rehab of its second Calaca plant unit.

As reported, completion date is set by the first quarter of next year. But once fully operational, the Calaca plant's capacity to generate 2 1 MW hrs (kilowatt hours) or gigawatt hours) this year and up to 3.3 billion kilowatt hours or gigawatt hours next year.

The exceptions and expressed lines on the current situation SCC may be seen. But I believe that the ways to appreciate SCC now is to look forward to its projected income from its expanded power generation output for next year.

Also, since SCC management will have completed the arrangements for an "all-takes-care strategic partner" for the installation and profitable operation of another 600-megawatts power plant in Batangas, you will not see its price to go as much as by far now.

Therefore, with a strong market following and robust long-term prospects, SCC is still both technically and fundamentally attractive.

New market index

On Sept. 12, the benchmark index will have a new composition. This is in line with the policy of the bourse to capture as close as possible the real price of the market.

To qualify for the benchmark index listing, the company must first have a "free float level of at least 12 percent."

Second, the trading history of the listed issue must be "among the top 25 percent by median daily value per month for at least nine months out of 12 months. The sources and explanation why Lopezes Consolidated Mining Corp. (LC) is among those being taken out in the meantime.

While LC had captured a large criteria and value inclusion, it just did recently. ACC, which is coming into the index, it has been a consistent market maker.

In particular, the period covered by the new index review was made between the trading activities of July 2010 to June 2011.

Third, and most significant, inclusion in the "top 30 (will be) based on full market capitalization." This change is not to continued. It should not need further explanation.

Since we still need a grasp on the sentiments on the different sectors that compose the overall market, the index per sector will be maintained. "To be included in the sector indexes, companies must rank among the top 30 percent in terms of median daily trading for each month in eight out of the 12 months period in review."

Lastly, the new free float levels of listed companies were taken from most submitted reports to the bourse as of the end of June 30, 2011.

(The writer is a licensed stockbroker of Eagle Equities Inc. He may reach the Market Rider at market.rider@gmail.com.ph or directly at www.dsquisumbing.com)

Investors sought for 11 hydropower projects

By Amy R. Remo

PHOC RENEWABLES Corp., a wholly-owned subsidiary of state-run Philippine National Oil Co., is looking for private sector partners for its 11 hydropower projects, which can generate roughly 270 megawatts for the Luzon and Visayas grids.

According to PNOC-RC president Roger Buendia, the company wants to "encourage private investment" in these projects, which are all in the pre-development stage.

The renewable energy service contracts for these proposed hydropower projects, earlier endorsed to our over P25 billion in all, were awarded back in 2009.

PNOC-RC's projects in Negros Oriental were the Pamoo-Guinobatan hydropower project in La Libertad, which is projected to generate some 33 MW by additional capacity in the island; Olave in Valencia, 11 MW; Guisor in Siaton, 1.4 MW; and Siloyong in Jota, Catarina, 17.6 MW.

The company also has the Jalaur project in Calinog, Iloilo, which is expected to produce 11 MW of hydropower; and Dalupiri in Bacon, Oriental Mindoro, which would have an 18 MW capacity.

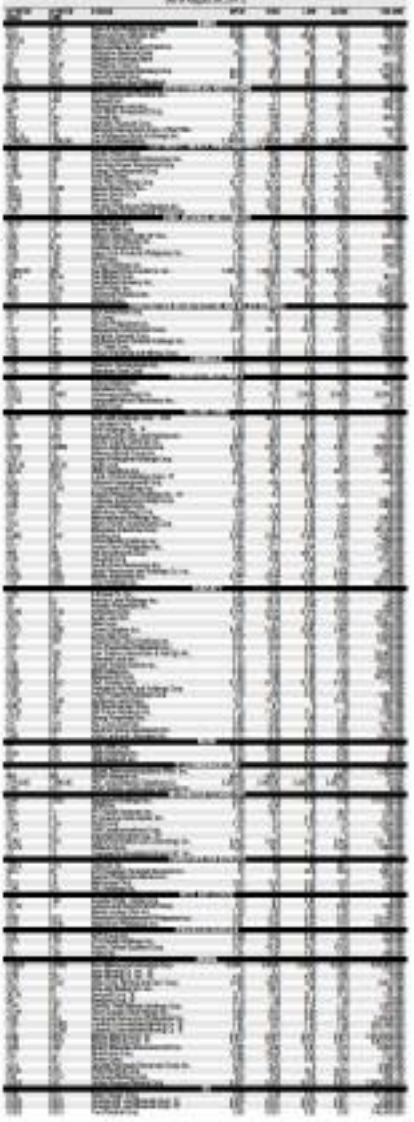
It has five more projects in Luzon namely, the Salinas-II in Balbalan, with a 2.6 MW capacity; Pasil-II in Pasil, 20 MW; and Pasil-I, 22 MW, all of which are located in Kalinga; the Sinacaling-II in Balungao, Pangasi., with an estimated 45-MW capacity; and Alnasa in Dupax, Isabela, 60 MW.

Buendia also disclosed that the feasibility studies for most of these 11 hydropower projects are expected to be completed within the year.

"We expect to move to development stage with some of our projects by late next year. More than the projects we have one on the frontier areas," Buendia added.

PNOC-RC was put up to serve as the government's vehicle for implementing renewable-energy projects such as solar, hydro, wind and geothermal.

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE



CURRENCIES

August 29, 2011 Country	Unit	Peso Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Euro Equivalent
United States	Dollar	43.8000	1.000000	62.5675
Japan	Yen	0.570000	0.013000	0.8137
United Kingdom	Pound	71.2000	1.625000	101.6625
Hong Kong	Dollar	5.6200	0.128275	8.0267
Switzerland	Franc	49.9500	1.140195	71.3145
Canada	Dollar	44.7500	1.021598	63.9169
Australia	Dollar	46.2500	1.055872	66.0625
Singapore	Dollar	34.7000	0.792237	49.5725
Malaysia	Ringgit	14.3900	0.328539	20.5572
Bahrain	Dinar	116.2000	2.652968	165.9925
Brunei	Dollar	34.7000	0.792237	49.5725
China	Yuan	6.8800	0.157078	9.8312
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.0050	0.000114	0.0071
Kuwait	Dinar	156.7000	3.577626	223.8775
Macau	Pataca	5.4800	0.125114	7.8287
Qatar	Riyal	12.0300	0.274658	17.1887
Saudi Arabia	Riyal	11.6800	0.266667	16.6900
Taiwan	Dollar	1.5100	0.034475	2.1575
Thailand	Baht	1.4600	0.033333	2.0862
United Arab Emirates	Dirham	11.9200	0.272146	17.0325
South Korea	Won	0.0400	0.000913	0.0571
Vietnam	Dong	0.0020	0.000046	0.0029
Source: Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas as of 29 August 2011, 5:00 p.m.				

(C) 2011 PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER, INC. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. THIS ARTICLE IS PROTECTED BY COPYRIGHT UNDER THE PHILIPPINE INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW. ANY REPRODUCTION, DISTRIBUTION, COMMUNICATION TO THE PUBLIC, OR OTHER USE OF THE CONTENTS OF THIS ARTICLE WITHOUT THE CONSENT OF THE COPYRIGHT OWNER MAY RENDER THE INFRINGER LIABLE FOR DAMAGES AND OTHER RELIEF.

Demand for electronics seen to pick up

Industry group, economists say full-year outlook still dim

By Ben T. Diokno

PROSPECTS FOR the electronics sector remain bleak for 2011 even with the seasonal strengthening of demand for consumer products in the second half of the year, experts said.

Semiconductor and Electronics Industries in the Philippines (Seipi) president Ernesto B. Santiago said sales of electronics were expected to improve in the second half of 2011 compared to the first half.

Economist Fleming Secretary Lorenzo W. Bolivar says it was also optimistic on second-half sales of electronics.

"Historically it is during the third quarter of the year that the demand for electronics would pick up in preparation for the holiday season," he said.

Fabregas could not predict, though, that there would be enough demand to match last year's growth.

Didi L. Barnes of the University of Asia and the Pacific said the increase in exports in June 2011 was partly due to the increase in demand for inputs that would be used to produce consumer goods for export and the local market in the rest of the year.

Factory output will likely rise, Teresa said, because of the seasonally high consumer spending in the fourth quarter of the year.

"I am not sure, however, if imports of electronic products will recover since the world market for electronics remains sluggish and the Japanese economy is still recovering from multiple crisis events," Teresa said.

Year-end demand in 2011 may not even be enough to match that of the second half of 2010, Santiago said.

"The second half of 2010 was strong. The whole year guidance is negative 5 percent at the moment. This is even with Japan supply recovery," Santiago said in a text message.

The market is volatile especially due to the European sovereign debt issue, the financial crisis in Europe and the political turmoil in Libya.

"These will lower consumer spending on technology products," Santiago said.

Former Budget Secretary Benjamin E. Diokno, presently a professor at the University of the Philippines School of Economics, is not optimistic either.

Import growth started to downward trend after peaking at 11.4 percent in November of 2010, with electronics as one of the major losers, Diokno noted.

AGRICULTURE Secretary Proceso J. Alcala rides in inland boaters of vegetables loaded through the 1.8-kilometer trackline system (back) which was opened over to the farmers of Nagcarlan, Laguna. With the trackline system, farmers can now easily transport their agricultural produce on time to the market, allowing them to earn P1,000 to P1,200 per hectare for farming and transportation expenses. Assisting the secretary are (from left) DA-RFU IV-A Regional Executive Director Redundo Bragas, Laguna 2nd district Rep. Ma. Evita Arago-Gapit and Philmark Trackline national vice chairman Raul Paz.

PLDT to start its segment of new high-speed Internet 'highway'

By Paolo G. Montecillo

PHILIPPINE LONG Distance Telephone Co. is set to start construction of its segment of a new undersea high-speed Internet "highway" that will further improve connection speeds for its broadband users.

This is after the National Telecommunications Commission (NTC), in its en banc meeting last week, approved the company's participation in the Asia Submarine-cable Express network.

"International submarine cables provide connectivity for international telecommunications traffic," the NTC noted in its approval. The NTC said the "ASE will benefit the public by providing additional capacity and higher speeds" for PLDT's users.

In January of this year, PLDT signed an agreement with telecom companies in Japan, Singapore and Malaysia to build a new fiber-optic submarine cable in the Asia-Pacific region.

PLDT will be the landing party in the Philippines. The company's initial partners overseas are affiliate NTT Communications from Japan, StarHub in Singapore and Telekom Malaysia in Malaysia.

The cable system will cost $394 million, with PLDT contributing $31 million, inclusive of a cable landing station in Baler, Aurora province.

The facility is expected to be completed by the third quarter of next year.

"The ASE submarine cable is expected to cater to the forecasted exponential growth in bandwidth requirements of the country and the region, driven by bandwidth-rich applications such as Internet protocol, video, data and other multimedia services," PLDT said in its application.

The company said the facility would also improve the redundancy of its network for its existing submarine facilities, namely the Asia Pacific Network 1, the Trans-Pacific, the Southeast Asia Middle East & Western Europe-cable systems.

The new system will connect Japan, the Philippines, Hong Kong, Malaysia, Singapore and potentially China, as well as other Southeast Asian countries.

PLDT is the country's largest telecommunications company, serving more than 45 million subscribers as of the end of the first half.

Reciprocity for practicing professionals pushed

By Abigail L. Ho

THE AMERICAN Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines is pushing for the introduction of a reciprocity provision in laws governing the practice of certain professions in Philippine nationals.

In a letter to Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV, Amcham executive director Jeffrey Plaschka II noted the "policy bias in favor of Philippine citizens" that the Constitution had laid down. Despite this, some professions allowed local practice by foreigners by way of specific laws that contained reciprocity provisions.

He said that of the 47 existing laws governing the practice of specific professions, 12 contained reciprocity provisions, allowing foreign nationals to practice such professions here in exchange for allowing Filipinos to practice the same in their countries.

Five more amendments to limit local practice to Filipino citizens, such as those governing criminologists, environmental planners, foresters, pharmacists and radiologic technologists.

"In chair of the committee on civil service, we believe that just have the opportunity to remove the barriers or restrictions on professions via legislation, as you have proposed. By introducing the principle of reciprocity in several bills regulating professions being tackled by your committee, you liberalize the practice of a profession by a foreigner," Woodruff said.

"By inserting a reciprocity provision in the above laws, Congress will, in effect, make the restriction in the Constitution a dead letter," he added.

Trillanes' committee on civil service and government reorganization has already conducted hearings and included nine bills group meetings on bills pertaining to civil engineering, medicine, mining engineering, interior design, landscape architecture, law, librarianship, marine deck and marine engine officers, master plumbing, night technology, social work, and psychology.

"The 60-40 ownership structure and the numerous restrictions on the practice of certain professions, you'll have to change that. This can be done by changing the very Constitution is written or by eliminating them from the respective law," Woodruff said.

Goindustry DoveBid Philippines
The largest most comprehensive Industrial Asset and Valuation Company Worldwide is moving to a better location on 2nd week of September

Our new contact details are as follows:
Unit 6E, 6th Floor, 1108 Chikoki Pedestrio Building
Makati Business Park, Alabang-Zapote Road,
Muntinlupa City, 1779 Philippines

Tel. +632 478 0108
Fax. +632 478 1551
Email: goindustry@dovebid.com
Website: www.dovebid.com

Goindustry DoveBid

Gov't plans to bid out FTI property this year

By Bonnie W. Domingo

THE GOVERNMENT is confident that it can finally sell to the private sector a large chunk of the Food Terminal Inc. property in Taguig City within the year, according to Finance Secretary John Philip Sevilla.

Sevilla told reporters that FTI's privatization "will happen this year."

Without elaborating, Sevilla said the privatization process was in the advanced stages.

When pressed for details, he said these would be made public in due time.

In an earlier interview, Sevilla said the government last year put on the shelf the 1.86-hectare property's privatization, but he said the government was expected to put the FTI land back on the auction block this year.

He said that while the latest appraised (based) the value of the FTI asset at P3.3 billion, the government expected to earn more than that amount considering that attempts to privatize it had failed at that rate.

Ayala Land Inc., San Miguel Properties Inc. and SM Investments previously expressed interest in acquiring the property in Taguig City.

The government raised only P900 million—mainly from the sale of small-ticket items—through its privatization efforts in 2010, which was less than half of its P2-billion goal for that year.

Along with the FTI lot, Malacañang also put on hold the privatization of two other big-ticket assets including the government's share in the Malampaya natural gas project, and the lease of a prime property in Tokyo.

These three properties were expected to raise at least P8 billion, which is expected to help push down the country's budget deficit.

Dinky Soliman, the Cabinet-level Development Budget Coordinating Council chairman, earlier (for 2011), the Aquino administration had set a goal of raising P1 billion a year from asset sales.

Based on the privatization plan for this year, the government is looking at raising at least P5 billion, including the block sale of some 90 million common shares representing its 6.3% percent stake in the Subic Shipyard and Engineering Inc.

Disclosures

AYALA Corp. disclosed it bought back 10,000 of its P50 P.50 par shares at P505.500 shares at P505.50 per share on Aug. 26, in line with its share buyback program.

* * *

ASIABANK'S Development Bank Inc. disclosed the appointment of Ramon P. Mendoza and Ricardo R. Alfiler Jr. as company directors, replacing Mr. Dominic C. Ibañez and Leonardo M. Berbosa.

* * *

BETTY BOY Savings Bank Inc. disclosed the appointment of Antonio L. Tabangon Ong as its chair and Eng. E. Cortez as president while Atty. Isidro A. Tabangon as advisers, effective Sept. 1.

* * *

IPMG Corp. disclosed the appointment of Cesar Jr. Dayton Garcia as assistant corporate secretary and alternate information officer of the company.

* * *

METROPOLITAN Bank & Trust Co. disclosed the election of Jesus P. De Jesus as independent director of the company and his designation as member of the corporate governance and thematic audit (materials) committees effective Aug. 19.

* * *

STOCKBUILDER.COM Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on Oct. 5 at 2 p.m. at the Function 1 of Crowne Plaza Galleria Manila, Ortigas Avenue corner Asian Development Bank Avenue, Pasig City. Stockholders of record as of Aug. 31 are entitled to notice of and vote at the meeting.

Compiled by Marielle Medina, Inquirer Research

BSP: Inflation to stay well ...

From page B1

fuel demand for goods and services, and their second-round influence, if all other factors affecting prices remained constant.

The reserve requirement—the percentage of deposits that banks should park with the BSP as reserves—has already been raised by a total of 2 percentage points, or from 19% to 21 percent.

That has helped the central bank to remove banks' excess liquidity which could be used for lending. As a result, demand and infla-

No longer happy ...

Sarmiento, Phillip, Mike and Boulding.

A number of other brand owners followed suit, including Lacoste, Levi's, Oakley, Puma, Cibao, Skechers, Lotto, Budpest, A. Longo & Solano, Carlos Mendoza, Panoni, Stanton & Morales, DFC, Jacques Le Coultre, Piaget and Burberry Cosmetics.

Cisco said in an earlier statement that DOPPEL used the brand owners themselves conducted monitoring activities at the GDC to ensure that counterfeit versions of their products would no longer be sold at the commercial center.

Brand owners provided regular incentive reports to DOPPEL, Cisco said.

DOPPEL said a similar report in the management of 168 Mall to would cost counterfeit items being sold there, but there had been no response.

"But we will try a different avenue. That time, the letter will be addressed to 168 Tiendesitas Corp.," Cisco said.

In an earlier interview, Bautista said he had directed mall owners and administrators to weed out sellers of counterfeit items among their tenants if they did not want to be criminally charged.

"Mall owners will also be criminally liable if they're found to be aiding and abetting the sale of counterfeited and pirated goods," Bautista had said.

Hoping to be smitten off the anti-piracy watch list of the US government, local authorities earlier swept malls and shopping areas deemed "notorious" piracy havens by the United States Trade Representative Office.

LIVE AUCTION

OFFICE FURNITURE & EQUIPMENT - Five Computer Printers; Accelerator; Camera; Scanner; Office Refrigerators; and Air Conditioning Units; Complete Package Sets for Condominiums; 5 Complete 1.5 Division Sliding Wall Partitions; 2 Queen Sized Beds; Filing Cabinets; 4 Executive Chairs; Typewriters; Executive Tables; Conference Tables; Office Tables; Executive Chairs; Assorted Office Tables; Aluminum Glass Office Desks; Steel Desks; Round Tables; Executive Swivel Office Chairs; Steel Desk Drawer Units; Steel Cabinets; Steel Lockers; Steel Shelves; Typewriters; Computer Tables; Secretarial Desks; Steel Cabinets; Typewriters; Computers; Laser Jet Printers; Photocopiers; Fax Machines; Telephones; Executive Chairs; Steel Desk

The Bull Runner is bullish about Sun Cellular

JAYMEE PUJARO has something in common with showbiz stars Aga Muhlach, Judy Ann Santos-Agoncillo and Maja Salvador. She is also a Sun Cellular customer who enjoys being wonder lists.

Popularly known as the morning circuit as "The Bull Runner," Jaymee is a celebrity in her own right, having joined races here and abroad including marathons in Hongkong and New York.

Jaymee is not only bullish about running. She is also passionate about graphic design. Maga said "Bebot" that being her online moniker of the time. She then got frustrated when the experiences inconsistent connection in the middle of an important web-based work or when she's blogging or tweeting.

"I've tried other plug-ins," she says. "But sometimes it was on load-load I sometimes get my self-esteem was affected my words as a graphic designer because I needed to send heavy files immediately."

Until a friend told her that Sun Broadband is better than the rest. "I asked if it works in the car because I'm online even when I travel long," says the running enthusiast. "I tried it and it worked!" she continues. Ever her husband uses the iPad with Sun Broadband.

Sun Broadband is the reason why she is a loyal Sun subscriber even before she started endorsing the brand. In a self-confessed, heavy Internet user who never leaves home without her laptop, tablet and her Sun plug-in device, she was also attracted to Sun's connected 24/7 Call and Text Unlimited services.

Aside from her active participation in the world of runners, bloggers and digital artists, she also teaches baby sign language. "It's really juggling a lot of stuff," she explains. "But my priority is my family. I'm lucky in the sense that my schedule is flexible and I work from home most of the time when everything is done online," she explains.

Thanks to Sun Broadband, Jaymee is able to do graphic designer tutorials are common, shared on a per project basis, write her blogs and update her followers on Twitter seamlessly 24/7 wherever she is. Consistent, fast, and reliable Sun Broadband, with speeds of up to 6Mbps available nationwide and with no set interruptions, is indeed a great help for a "woman on the run" like Jaymee.

So, why the "The Bull Runner"? Jaymee explains: "My dad always said I was very stubborn and bullheaded. And my zodiac sign is Taurus, also known as symbology as the bull." Likewise, her work in the stock market as a "bull run" is always positive. My husband added the "is" to "Bull Run" and said why not "Sun Bull Runner"? It sounded good...so the Bull Runner it was."

The Bull Runner is the perfect moniker for a woman like Jaymee - passionate, determined, and a bullish about her life, family, work and her shares of communication partner.

For Jaymee, running under the Sun couldn't be more exciting.

BSP CITES BDO AS TOP REMITTANCE BANK IN 2010

BDO Unibank Inc. (BDO) was awarded the Top Commercial Bank in Remittances by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas for 2010 for the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP). The distinction earned the bank a spot in the Hall of Fame for Top Commercial Bank in Remittances. BDO is the only commercial bank to have won this coveted award in 2008 and 2009.

Shown in photo during the Awards Ceremony and Appreciation Luncheon for BSP Stakeholders are (from left), Monetary Board member Peter Favila, BDO Remittance Domestic Operations Head Rosalinda Vitug, BSP Governor Amando Tetangco, Jr. and BSP Governor Armando Valdepeñas, Jr.

'Newsboys' officially endorses Audio-Technica microphones

NEWSBOYS: FOR HIRE singer John DiMaggio says that pairing of the band and A-T microphones is a perfect connection. "We are pretty particular about sound, right down to the smoothness in our workflow," says DiMaggio, who has been with Newsboys for nine years. "Hunter engineer, Jeff Stelle and I began discussing our desire for some new microphones."

"Primarily, we wanted to go to a different direction with our sound. We had been using the same audited dynamic instrument mics on our toms and snare drum for the last six or seven years. The old mics weren't broken, so it wasn't like we had to make a change. We simply were inflicted."

That's when they got with Audio-Technica microphones, and it transformed the sound of their drumkit. "We only did we end up with a different approach on our tones, but also the snare drum and all of the cymbals as well," says DiMaggio.

Official continues, "Newsboys has always been about getting the best sounds we can get, and in this day and age, so many sounds that just beat at a concert are exactly the same as the sounds that you hear on the record, due to the advent of digital mixing, plug-ins and mega platform possibility with audio files used for playback. We have found that by switching over to the Audio-Technica microphones, we have found able to close the lines between the live instruments and sounds on stage and the computer/studio-derived sounds that are prevalent in our live show. This has given us a great advantage and head start on our quest to get the perfect sound."

Celebrating over 45 years of audio excellence worldwide, Audio-Technica is a leading innovator in transducer technology, renowned for the design and manufacture of microphones, wireless microphone systems, headphones, mixers, and electronics for the audio industry and is being locally distributed by Voyager Electronics Corporation through Sandra Music Stores and Prolyte Pitch Stores nationwide.

For more information on the complete range of Audio-Technica products, you may visit any Sandra Music Stores or Stelled Pitch Stores nationwide. You may also contact 899-9733 or 899-9737 or log on to www.voyager.com.

Fourth year of partnership for OBG and P&A

OXFORD BUSINESS Group (OBG), the global publishing, research and consultancy company, has marked a fourth year of partnership with Philippine Andlir Asia and advisory firm Punongbayan & Araullo (P&A) for its forthcoming country report.

P&A, which has contributed to each of OBG's publications on the country's economy, activity and investment opportunities, will team up with the Group to produce the investment chapter of The Report: The Philippines 2012.

P&A is a member firm of Grant Thornton International, one of the world's leading organizations of independently owned and managed accounting firms. P&A offers a range of services including audit and assurance, tax advisory and compliance, specialist advisory, and finance and accounting outsourcing.

OBG's country director Brooke Barker said that work on the Group's 2012 publication comes as the Philippines prepares to enter a new phase in its economic development which was led by a drive to achieve rapid growth across the sectors.

"Strong macro fundamentals, rising purchasing power and significant demand for infrastructure have put the Philippines at the brink of a new era," she said. "With reforms and major projects poised to galvanize growth, I look forward to documenting the golden opportunities that the country's changing business landscape is producing for foreign investors and relaying them in our latest publication – The Report: The Philippines 2012."

Barker welcomed P&A on board for the new project, saying that its input would prove particularly valuable in the group's analysis of the Philippine Development Plan (PDP). "Our long-standing partnership with P&A has strengthened our ongoing coverage of the Philippines' economic ambitions," she said. "I am confident that its contributions will bring an added dimension to our study, as of the country's wave of reforms which are a key focus of the country's economic vision."

Melvin Jayuta, managing partner and CEO of P&A, added that the firm pieced forecasts for expansion under way in the Philippines heightened the importance of ensuring accurate and up-to-date data was made available to foreign investors.

"The government's decision to up the tempo of its national development plan a year during investment opportunities for a long list of ventures, including infrastructure, services, tourism, retail and property," she said. "I look forward to analyzing with market leaders and to bringing their views to the world and out to capture this critical juncture in the Philippines' history and provide key information on the country to investors worldwide."

The Report: The Philippines 2012 will be a vital guide to the many facets of the economy, including its macroeconomic, infrastructure, banking and other sectoral developments. The forthcoming publication will include a detailed, seven-by-seven guide for foreign investors, alongside a wide range of interviews with the most prominent political, economic and business leaders. The Report: The Philippines 2012 will be available in print or online.

TOYOTA CONDUCTS 6TH TREE-PLANTING IN PINAGLANCA

Volunteers from the Toyota Group and its partners once again contributed to tree-planting activities in support of Toyota's reforestation efforts in Pinaglanca, Cagayan Province as part of its advocacy on caring for the environment. Team members from Toyota Motor Philippines Corporation (TMP), Toyota Autoparts Philippines Inc., dealers Toyota Makati Inc., Toyota Alabang, Pilipinas, and Toyota Buendia Pampanga, Lexus Makati Inc. and Toyota Financial Services Philippines Corporation attended from as far as Isabela province. They were joined by volunteers from Toyota Motor Corporation who came all the way from Japan. The tree planting activity is part of Phase 2 of Toyota's over $500 million Philippine Reforestation Development Project (PRDP). The second phase entails the reforestation of an additional 750 hectares to complete the targeted total of 2,500 hectares by 2012. Toyota also aims to establish a system that will provide alternative livelihood for the local community and enable them to sustain the reforestation efforts after the six-year project term expires. For the 6th tree-planting activity, TMP, the PRDP's implementing arm composed of its various environmental and social projects that also includes programs in the areas of healthcare, education, and road safety.

Product FILES

Say yes with Charmee

DARING!!! Off-limits!!! Out-of-control!!! Shopping-addicted!!! Words that describe how we shop during those holidays, and moms are no exception. Especially during the month! Charmee got used Pandora Princess Bank Services, has promo otherwise. She's always in out with challenges, especially at work, but she knows that Charmee Mi-Fine Bra Set is just the feminine part she needs to keep her protected. Made with a mid-thin cover with mesh-dry bonnets that rapidly absorb fluid, Charmee Mi-Fine Bra Set will surely give women a more comfortable feeling each day, whether they choose to stay at home or busy establishing by in. Charmee has got that looks covered! For more information, log on to the Charmee website at www.charmee.com.ph.

Figla's most fashionable comfort shoes

FIGLA, the 75th premium ladies footwear brand, is proud to introduce Sensitive, a new footwear line of comfortable, fashionable shoes. Sensitive features the latest in breathtaking air comfort shoe technology, offering the most fashionably advanced comfort shoes available in the marketplace today. The collection is an eclectic mix of patents, metallic shades, and bright colored hits and neutrals, perfect for casual outings with family or friends, or for looking back after a day at work. Sensitive by Figla is available exclusively at SM Department Stores.

'Big Bite @ P199' Trio at Tonks Nut Batirol

TONKS NUT BATIROL has come up with the Big Bite @ P199 Trio for sharing. Trio features their Cheese Quesadilla (P199), good for 4. Soft, thick crust topped with cheese and garlic, it is served with 6 pieces of fried truffles. Also available are the Chicken Adobo Quesadilla and the Triple Pastilla. Get them now at selected Tonks Nut Batirol branches. Like us on Facebook - Tonks Nut Batirol (official fan page).

NEW MOBILE PHONE PROVIDER LAUNCHED

Sun Technology Ltd. the newest mobile phone provider in the country, recently met the local IT and lifestyle media to announce the launch held at Makati City recently. The new mobile phone provider aims to be the dominant in the media to announce its new product with the current crop of affordable and quality-wise but are not fully balanced and totally functional mobile phone attributes that will surely appeal to the modern Filipino mobile phone users of today. Shown on (from left) Arnold Jose Pelayo, business development manager; Elbe Simon-Hernandez, senior vice president; Emerging Markets; Chan Tobe-Ivanovic, president; Pat Lim; Jaime Nathaniel Lagman Pacpac, country manager; Elbe Simon-Hernandez, and Darla Sarah Magdayao, product manager. Elbe Simon-Hernandez

Cathay Pacific continues CSR efforts in the Philippines

As A continuation of its many noteworthy CSR endeavors in the Philippines over the years, international carrier Cathay Pacific recently launched in 2011 initiative with the implementation of the first phase of its tree-planting program at Barangay Wawa-bod, Antipolo.

Initial tree-planting activities, which included establishing a nursery site for 15,000 seedlings, and will culminate in mid-October, were participated in by staff volunteers of Cathay Pacific, representatives from partner group Philippine Business for Social Progress (PBSP) and locals from the community.

According to country manager Ed Biggs, the program aims to contribute to the rehabilitation of the Marikina Watershed, which is already 70% denuded. Secondarily it also provides livelihood assistance to 20 families of the nomadic Dumagat tribe who will be looking after the nursery prior to tree-planting.

Biggs reveals that a full harvest of the said seedlings has been scheduled for the site wherein the manner seedlings from the nursery will be planted and nurtured on a regular basis.

"This is an sustainable project that Cathay Pacific will be taking on long term," he says. "The process involved in establishing a nursery usually entails very large harvest of seedlings we planted, and we intend to see this through to the very end."

He concludes that the Marikina Watershed tree planting program is the newest manifestation of Cathay Pacific's CSR objectives in the Philippines. "As a company, we are committed to be socially and environmentally responsible through the implementation of active sustainable programs that we believe will have a significant impact on the communities we serve."

JOLLIBEE GIVES AWAY FORD FIESTA TO 3 DRIVE-THRU CUSTOMERS

Jollibee Co at Quezon City, Metro Manila, Charity Garcia of Lagro, Quezon, and Dominique Lang of Cagayan De Oro City hold the keys to their new Ford Fiesta, courtesy of Jollibee's "Win a Fiesta Promo." Jollibee customers were able to qualify and join the raffle simply by purchasing P150 worth of Jollibee Yum Yum Combos! Also, three stores from Metro Manila, Bacolod City, Iloilo City, Cagayan De Oro City and Davao City participated in the promo. Shown in photo are Jollibee president Jose Mitsuru "Joseph" Ashlee Tan, together with Ford Group Philippines' marketing Director Jillian Ng, PR customer relations Anita Salcedo Wycoco and Yum during the raffle draw held last June 12 at the Jollibee main office.

NDC ON CLIMATE CHANGE, DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

Development Foundation of the Philippines (NDFP) recently signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) for a private public partnership for raising pro-climate change, disaster preparedness and sustainability. Signing the MOU were (seated from left) Executive Philippine Disaster Recovery Foundation (PDRF) consultant Emil Lim; NDF Environment and Sustainable Development committee chair Tommy Li; Mayor Abigail Binay of Makati; and (standing) Makati Environment Committee chair Oscar Sevilla, and NDF Board Member Lydia Echauz.

Open to all Entrepreneurs

BE ONE OF OUR

Metro Manila

Ad Placement

Satellite Office

(Major Tabloid Publications)

For inquiry, please call 782-7642 or 09053027442 E-mail: ordoniez@yahoo.com

SOCIAL SECURITY COMMISSION

NOTICE OF RESOLUTION

Ariss Association of School HRMD Practitioners, Inc. (ASSHPI)

Invites

HR Practitioners, Administrators, Principals, Deans, School Owners, and Educators

12th National Convention

Theme : "Effective Talent Management - The Strategic Key in Shaping the Future"

August 31 to September 2, 2011

L'Fisher Hotel, Bacolod City

Topics :

- Attracting and Retaining the Right People in Your Organizations
- Building Workforce Competencies through Skill's Eyeframing
- Driving Schools to Organizational Excellence through Internal Critical Analysis, External Recognitions and Accreditations
- Engaging People through Effective Employee Relations and Positive Employee Discipline, But Letting Go of Talents When All Else Fails
- Compensation Survey in Philippine Schools: Sharing of Results

In partnership with

JOB

In cooperation with

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

RUSH CUBAO

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

HOUSE

LOAN & MORTGAGE

TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE

BOATS

CARS

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

CAR LOAN

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

WANTED TO BUY

ROLEX

PUBLIC NOTICES

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

COMMERCIAL

The Executive Coaching Program for the Next Thought Leaders

September 27 to 29, 2011 - Intercontinental Hotel, Makati

with Global Guru
Mr. Andrew Neitlich

ICF & HRCI Approved Program

Founder and Director of Center for Executive Coaching, USA and author of *Guerilla Marketing for a Bulletproof Career* with Jay Conrad Levinson

"Leaders of the past, tells; leaders of the future, asks."
Peter Drucker

A Coach encourages a dialogue that leads to awareness and actions.

Executive Coaching is a new leadership skill that helps the organization enhance its effectiveness in achieving corporate goals.

Learn this powerful tool and enhance your leadership skills to help employees reach higher level of performance.

To Executives/Managers: Be the Executive Coach.

REGISTER NOW!

Email:
executivecoaching@huris.com.ph

Call:
Azy/Liz/Laisha at
661-5864 and 749-2961

Website:
www.executivecoaching.huris.com.ph

In Partnership with
Center for Executive Coaching, USA and HURIS, INC.

OFFICIAL MEDIA PARTNER

INQUIRER JOB

need a job?

ANNOUNCEMENT

To our valued advertisers:

In observance of the end of Ramadan today, **August 30**, all our CLASSIFIED ADS Branches will be closed except our SM Megamall Branch.

For inquiries and ad placements, please call our SM Megamall Branch office at 635-02-19 and 687-23-54.

ATTENTION: CLASSIFIEDS ADVERTISERS

PUBLISH A PICTURE OF YOUR:

INQUIRER CLASSIFIEDS

OBITUARIES

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:

- Copy of Death Certificate
- Any identification document (I.D.)

DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT

MESSAGE OF THANKS

DEATH ANNIVERSARY

REQUIEM

FREE OBIT OFFER

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" John 11:25-26

CARIDAD TORRENTE VELÁSQUEZ

"You will show me the path to life, abounding joy in Your presence, the delights at Your right hand forever..." Psalm 16:11

Peacefully joined her Creator on August 27, 2011 at the age of 88.

She is survived by her husband Alfredo; children Patricia, Lolita, Roberto & Anna, Nelly & Bob, Alice & Ady, Cecilia & Manny, and Tony & Wilda; grandchildren Mike & Celia, Luigi & Licha, Jose & Joy, Bea & Jess, Robbie, Butch & Denise, Cheryl & Andrew, Wiam, Paolo, Nicky, Andrew, Carlo, Freddie and Kevin; great grandchildren Aaron, Gabe, Elyan, Kolbe, Kalea & Ashan; requests your prayers for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Loyola Memorial Chapels - Commonwealth Avenue in Quezon City.

Interment will be on Friday, September 2, 2011 at the Himlayang Pilipino after the morning Mass.

INQUIRER CLASSIFIEDS

ALABANG/ PROVINCIAL BRANCH

TELEPHONE NUMBER

Unit 204 Alexandra Bldg., 1101 Alabang Zapote Road, Madrigal Business Park, Muntinlupa City

OBITUARIES

Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for My sake will find it.
Matthew 10:39

In Loving Memory

Twenty Seventh Death Anniversary

CLEMENTE S. GATMAITAN, SR. M.D., M.P.H.

who died in the Grace of our Lord on August 30, 1984 at the age of 70

His treasured children, Nutritionist and Bongsanians, Clemente Jr. and Concepcion, Eradorio and Rose, grandchildren, great grandchildren and other relatives request for your kindness to offer prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

Holy Mass will be offered today, August 30, 2011 at

St. Francis Church, Mona Blvd., Muntinlupa City 10:00 AM

Nativity de San Antonio Parish, Makati City 6:00 PM

BUSINESS

Local gov'ts brace for IRA cutbacks in 2012-13

Creation of new provinces to 'distort' sharing, officials say

By Dazzle L. Lucas

THE INTERNAL Revenue Allotment of local government units (LGUs)—which is expected to decline over the next two years owing to lower national revenues during the 2009-2010 period—could suffer larger cut backs should there be an increase in the number of provinces in the country, according to local officials.

In a resolution issued at the end of a recent caucus in Mandaue, the League of Vice Governors of the Philippines (LVGP) said that aside from "distorting" the IRA sharing formula, any LGU fragmentation would "aggravate further the already substandard quality of services" delivered by LGUs and would force the government to spend more to create and maintain a new province.

The LVGP resolution was backed by the results of a joint study of the Local Government Development Foundation Foundation (LGDF) and the Bicol-based National Movement Defending Foundation (NMD).

In Resolution No. 05-2011, the LVGP sought the support of all Sangguniang Panlalawigan or provincial legislative boards of the country's 81 provinces by asking them to pass their own resolutions opposing the further partitioning of provinces.

"This resolution is furnished to all the Sangguniang Panlalawigan of all the provinces in the Philippines seeking their support through the passage of a resolution supporting the stand of the LVGP [against the further partition of provinces]," added the vice governors in their resolution adopted during a meeting last week in Dapitan City, Zamboanga del Norte.

"LVGP opines that the proposal to create [new provinces] at this time is untimely since the perennial revenue shares of the local government units for 2012 and 2013 will certainly decrease due to lower collection of internal revenue for 2009 and 2010," the resolution said.

"The League further opines that the number of provinces in 2012 will be increased from 80 to 81, in turn causing the diminution of the IRA sharing among the provinces."

"The reduction of our IRA shares for 2012 and 2013 and the further reduction by P2,267,732,827[from equal sharing would greatly affect the delivery of basic services in our respective LGUs," it added.

The Local Government Code provides that all provinces, cities, municipalities and barangays are to get 40 percent of the total national internal revenue tax collections under an equal sharing formula computed on the basis of every LGU's population and land area.

The LGUs' IRA allocation for a given year is computed based on the government's total revenue earnings from the third fiscal year preceding the current one. LGUs are to get lower IRA allotments in 2012 and 2013 because of the national government's lower tax collections in 2009 and 2010.

The LVGP resolution made an "urgent request" on the Senate to "set aside" bills promoting the partition of provinces that are "not in accordance" with the Local Government Code.

The vice governors also said that their opposition to the further partition of provinces is "consistent" with the Legaspi-NMD study, which notes that "fragmentation of LGUs hinders stabilization of local governance, distorts the IRA formula and negates the concept of fiscal decentralization, aggravates further the already substandard quality of services to the people and burdens the economy because of the high cost of creating new LGUs and the financial requirements to maintain offices etc."

The resolution was signed by LVGP national president Cagayan Vice Governor Lovinder Ponce and its secretary general, Mauban Vice Gov. Vivenes Hester Sevil.

Gov't spending picks up pace

By Reena W. Domingo

BUDGET Secretary Florencio B. Abad said that after seven months of state spending, some 21 percent or P747 billion remains of the national budget for this year.

Abad said in a statement that as of the end of July, the Department of Budget and Management had released allotments worth P1.298 trillion or 79 percent of the P1.645 trillion provided for in the General Appropriations Act of 2011.

The budget chief added that disbursements and agencies had exhibited "a marked improvement" in the use of funds through notices of cash allocations.

Abad said the utilization rate of NCAs increased to 99.3 percent in July alone, from 81.4 percent in the same first semester.

Abad said actual spending in the first seven months of the year totalled P852.2 billion, which is 48.6 percent of the full year disbursement program of P1.75 trillion.

He explained that the amount in excess of the 2011 budget represents funds allotted in the 2010 budget that must be spent this year.

The announced spending performance was lower by a tenth than the P960.45 billion recorded in the same period last year.

Abad said this was due to lower interest payments, which decreased by P134 billion to P375.7 billion.

The government also spent less on maintenance expenses, coming in at P96.1 billion or P65 percent lower year-on-year.

"Infrastructure and other capital outlays amounted to P64.5 billion, which is P93.5 billion or 58.7 percent lower year-on-year, due to lower demand for the settlement of accounts payables for projects of the Department of Public Works and Highways," Abad said.

"Tax subsidies, which amounted to P35.5 billion as of July, were lower by P11.4 billion or 42.2 percent year-on-year, as import requirements (the year are lower," he added.

On the other hand, Maloeading spent more on personnel services, doubling an increase of P8.7 billion or 2.3 percent to P374.6 billion because of the implementation of salary increases under the Salary Standardization Law 5.

Further, transfers to local government units increased by P13.2 billion or 19.3 percent to P81.1 billion due to higher internal revenue allotments this year.

Local, foreign firms seen investing P690B in hydro plants

By Amy R. Remo

THE DEPARTMENT of Energy expects local and foreign companies to invest over P690 billion to install 5,396 megawatts of additional capacity from large, micro and mini hydropower plants over the next 10 years.

Of the total capacity addition, nine projects that can generate a combined 237.8 MW have already been committed for installation, with the required investment estimated to reach P13.127 billion.

The remaining hydropower projects that can generate 5,366 MW are still indicative, meaning that these are either at the exploratory stage or have yet to reach financing closing.

These projects are expected to require P680 billion worth of investments between now and 2030.

The DOE has committed to help push for the aggressive development and eventual commissioning of these hydropower projects, which are more friendly to the environment compared to power plants using conventional fuel sources such as bunker oil and coal.

The DOE has pledged, for instance, to provide technology support to the sector, in terms of upgrading of local manufacturing capability, establishment of standards and best practices, and technology transfer.

For off-grid areas, a comprehensive micro hydro program will be formulated until 2015.

An inventory of micro hydro projects will be conducted to determine the possibility of optimizing the use of hydro resources and/or interconnection via mini grid systems.

Advisory services to interested investors will be provided throughout the implementation period (2010-2020).

The DOE also disclosed that it plans to get the Japan International Cooperation Agency (Jica) to conduct an optimization study, which will identify at least 30 potential sites.

Jica is also expected to package down prospective areas in preparation for auction to interested investors.

According to the DOE, studies have indicated that the Philippines has some 13,097 MW of untapped hydro resources.

Close to 86 percent—or the equivalent 11,235 MW of the hydro resource potential—can be developed as large hydro projects in 10 sites all over the country, while 900 other sites have individual potential capacities totalling 1,947 MW.

Most of the hydropower installed capacity is in Luzon where the resources can support large-scale hydro projects.

As of end-2010, hydropower accounted for 21 percent of total installed capacity in the country, making it the most dominant source of renewable energy-based capacity.

The DOE believes that given sufficient resources, hydropower can compete with conventional fossil-fired plants in terms of efficiency and cost.

Large hydropower plants, however, require large capital outlay and have a longer gestation period, often requiring the building of roads to facilitate construction work.

Micro and mini hydropower plants, on the other hand, have simple power generation systems that can be easily operated by local communities.

Like Thelma Sioson San Juan

LIFESTYLE Wellness

ABIGAIL Mendoza, 23, housewife
Favorite workout twice a week
Favorite running shoes Strawberry Gatorade

The running crowd is growing—at cocktail hour

Forget the drinks: these folk would rather head to Global City to get some exercise as the sun goes down

By Pam Pasco

MANY RELAX after a hard day at work by letting the hair and knocking back a few drinks. But some skip happy hour and choose to slip on to their running shoes and sprint until they break into a sweat.

Some have to move, others choose to

THE RUNNING CR

MIRANDA Ributa, 27, landscape photographer
Runs: 5k to 10k twice a week
Favorite running shoes Pikiano Wave Elixir, Saucony and Nike

GARFIELD — BY JIM DAVIS

A. LIPPA — BY JESS ABRERA

PUGAD BABOY — BY PHILJUSOR

DICK TRACY

LOVEHUNTS — BY ELIZABETH HOCHSCHILD

BABY BLUES — BY JERRI SCOTT

KIKO MACHINE — BY PANKA ABRERA

DEN — BY DANIEL SHELTON

MUTTS

SHERMAN'S LAGOON — BY JIM TOOMEY

DUSTIN — BY STEVE KELLEY AND JEFF PARKER

TULDOK — BY PANKA COLI

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCES DRAKE

THIS WEEK YOU'RE likely extremely motivated. You know now what you want, and you're willed to pursue it with your name. You are intuitive, considerate and not assertive. You're also a bit moody, good with money, likely-witty, you're organized and hard-working. You value your partner's level of confidence and strength that impresses others. A lucky, creative person, you're generous. You can be a devious collaborator. You can...

Aries (March 21 to April 20) Some of your relationships could be changed, reevaluated or canceled. Romantic relationships are really flourishing now. Your career is in an unusual position in a daylong letter. **SUNDAY (June 11 to July 22)** Social gatherings might look down on you. Some folks, a close colleague could need the benefit of the doubt and compassion and with family discussions to avoid problems and conflict.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22) Work on another business idea to move ahead of your day-to-day job. Take some precautions when you're traveling, jogging, driving and even speaking to others. Be careful with your words.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22) Keep an eye on your money today. You might not make your budget this month. Don't let yourself be pressured into spending on a date. You don't necessarily need to be a big spender to impress someone. **LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22)** Be careful to balance your right and left brain. You are motivated to get your way. Therefore, ask any questions to check yourself in your senses. Partners and close friends might not be as...

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) You feel reckless today! You know the feeling that you're waiting for the other shoe to drop. It be of concern, but this may finally, because the Moon is direct. Hypothetically speaking, that is!

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Don't be overwhelmed by a project with its something unexpected today. Be on guard for your temperament or feelings and behavior. Others feel relaxed.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19) Your relationship with someone special is a bit tricky today. Romantic interests or someone you have not yet met. Surround...

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18) This is a really exciting phase for you in your life, so take time out and reflect on the benefits of whatever you are doing. Good plans likely will...

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20) This is an unexpectedly busy week in which matters about disputed inheritances, shared property and insurance matters. Unbelievable responses from others are likely. People will change their mind.

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that each row, column, and every 3×3 box contains the digits 1 to 9. For more programs or www.sudoku.com

Answers to previous puzzle:

4	8	9	5	6	1	7	3	2
5	3	7	2	8	4	1	6	9
1	2	6	7	3	9	5	8	4
2	7	1	8	4	5	9	2	6
3	6	4	9	2	7	8	1	5
9	5	8	1	6	3	4	7	2
6	1	3	4	5	2	6	9	7
8	4	2	6	7	8	3	5	1
7	9	5	3	1	6	2	4	8

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

			4	6			1	
5		7	1			2		
	2				9		8	
		6					9	5
3								4
4	9					6		
	8		3				2	
		9			7	3		1
	5			2	6			

Difficulty Level ★★

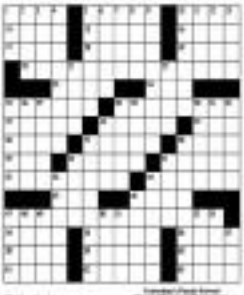
CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

1. Time
5. Dead on with delight
11. Stand with
12. Lack of rest
14. Pertaining to
15. Pertaining to
16. Pertaining to
17. Pertaining to
18. Pertaining to
19. Pertaining to
20. Pertaining to
21. Pertaining to
22. Pertaining to
23. Pertaining to
24. Pertaining to
25. Pertaining to
26. Pertaining to
27. Pertaining to
28. Pertaining to
29. Pertaining to
30. Pertaining to
31. Pertaining to
32. Pertaining to
33. Pertaining to
34. Pertaining to
35. Pertaining to
36. Pertaining to
37. Pertaining to
38. Pertaining to
39. Pertaining to
40. Pertaining to
41. Pertaining to
42. Pertaining to
43. Pertaining to
44. Pertaining to
45. Pertaining to
46. Pertaining to
47. Pertaining to
48. Pertaining to
49. Pertaining to
50. Pertaining to
51. Pertaining to
52. Pertaining to
53. Pertaining to
54. Pertaining to
55. Pertaining to
56. Pertaining to
57. Pertaining to
58. Pertaining to
59. Pertaining to
60. Pertaining to
61. Pertaining to
62. Pertaining to
63. Pertaining to
64. Pertaining to
65. Pertaining to
66. Pertaining to
67. Pertaining to
68. Pertaining to
69. Pertaining to
70. Pertaining to
71. Pertaining to
72. Pertaining to
73. Pertaining to
74. Pertaining to
75. Pertaining to
76. Pertaining to
77. Pertaining to
78. Pertaining to
79. Pertaining to
80. Pertaining to
81. Pertaining to
82. Pertaining to
83. Pertaining to
84. Pertaining to
85. Pertaining to
86. Pertaining to
87. Pertaining to
88. Pertaining to
89. Pertaining to
90. Pertaining to
91. Pertaining to
92. Pertaining to
93. Pertaining to
94. Pertaining to
95. Pertaining to
96. Pertaining to
97. Pertaining to
98. Pertaining to
99. Pertaining to
100. Pertaining to

DOWN

1. Pertaining to
2. Pertaining to
3. Pertaining to
4. Pertaining to
5. Pertaining to
6. Pertaining to
7. Pertaining to
8. Pertaining to
9. Pertaining to
10. Pertaining to
11. Pertaining to
12. Pertaining to
13. Pertaining to
14. Pertaining to
15. Pertaining to
16. Pertaining to
17. Pertaining to
18. Pertaining to
19. Pertaining to
20. Pertaining to
21. Pertaining to
22. Pertaining to
23. Pertaining to
24. Pertaining to
25. Pertaining to
26. Pertaining to
27. Pertaining to
28. Pertaining to
29. Pertaining to
30. Pertaining to
31. Pertaining to
32. Pertaining to
33. Pertaining to
34. Pertaining to
35. Pertaining to
36. Pertaining to
37. Pertaining to
38. Pertaining to
39. Pertaining to
40. Pertaining to
41. Pertaining to
42. Pertaining to
43. Pertaining to
44. Pertaining to
45. Pertaining to
46. Pertaining to
47. Pertaining to
48. Pertaining to
49. Pertaining to
50. Pertaining to
51. Pertaining to
52. Pertaining to
53. Pertaining to
54. Pertaining to
55. Pertaining to
56. Pertaining to
57. Pertaining to
58. Pertaining to
59. Pertaining to
60. Pertaining to
61. Pertaining to
62. Pertaining to
63. Pertaining to
64. Pertaining to
65. Pertaining to
66. Pertaining to
67. Pertaining to
68. Pertaining to
69. Pertaining to
70. Pertaining to
71. Pertaining to
72. Pertaining to
73. Pertaining to
74. Pertaining to
75. Pertaining to
76. Pertaining to
77. Pertaining to
78. Pertaining to
79. Pertaining to
80. Pertaining to
81. Pertaining to
82. Pertaining to
83. Pertaining to
84. Pertaining to
85. Pertaining to
86. Pertaining to
87. Pertaining to
88. Pertaining to
89. Pertaining to
90. Pertaining to
91. Pertaining to
92. Pertaining to
93. Pertaining to
94. Pertaining to
95. Pertaining to
96. Pertaining to
97. Pertaining to
98. Pertaining to
99. Pertaining to
100. Pertaining to



ROGER Federer using Wilson BLX

New technology prevents tennis elbow

TENNIS BUFFS, chances are, will stay up every night this week of the US Open, watching not only the game but also their favorite tandem day pinballers led by Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal.

At you go Federer-watching, take note that he's using the new BLX technology, the new Wilson racket technology that's supposed to help reduce overall tennis elbow.

Basalt fibers are woven longitudinally with Graviphite black to create the most advanced composite in the industry. It offers unmatched frequency reduction while retaining carbon fiber performance in terms of lightness, responsiveness, stability.

In the same manner that noise-canceling headphones filter out unwanted sound waves, Basalt added to the matrix filters the unwanted extreme frequencies that reach the hand.

The racket's ability to transfer impact information is substantially improved.

The feather base is for maximum sensation.

A smoother signal reaches the hand.

BLX technology delivers a classic feedback and better sensation for the perfect feel.

Stoop and handle are separated with tunnels for enhanced moment comfort.

A quad shaft yoke design is for 25 per cent increased torsional stability on off center hits—increasing the racket's sweetspot.

It has a new frame geometry providing 25 percent more overall stability compared to a classic beam construction.

It has a bigger hole allowing 26 string movement for a 7 percent bigger sweet spot.

Its new Autoadaptive Geometry Technology allows an extraordinary 96 string movement for the biggest oversized eye.

Breast cancer survivors unite in Davao City

"SILVER LININGS," the educational forum and homecoming for breast cancer survivors, and the people who care about them, that's staged by the Kanlaeron Foundation, will be held on Sept. 17, 8 a.m.-5:30 p.m. at Grand Regal Hotel in Davao City.

Davao City Mayor Sara Duterte and Doris Yahon, supporter of Kanlaeron's lumpiguy-based breast cancer screening program, will lead the opening ceremonies.

Held every three years around the country, Silver Linings is the only national forum of its kind that empowers cancer survivors, their family and friends, the medical community and the general public with information on breast cancer, as well as providing a circle of support.

Kanlaeron solidarity volunteers will moderate and speak at the breakout sessions. Karen Davila, Marinel Fernandez, Elbeth Cortez, Melissa de Leon, Betty Bette, Yamil Mawanay, Charlie Sun and Ramon Ang also have confirmed their participation.

Medical members feature Sirois Intuition, Chad Ibaja and the Gingerbread Dance Company.

The forum offers a wide range of topics from experts, such as Breast Cancer 101, Managing the Side Effects of Cancer Treatment, Exercise and Eating Right, Cancer-Causing Foods, How Husbands Cope, and many more.

Registration fee is P500, to include all meals and access to a free breast clinic. First come, first served.

For pre-registration, visit www.saveawife@yahoo.com or get registration forms from Davao City at the Grand Regal Hotel front desk, Metrobank Quimpo at the Davao Business Center in Lanang, Buenavista Del Sol and Cesperia at E Torres, Magic Coffee at Lanang, SM City, and SM. Forms are also available at Rotaract Station City through Bingge Coffee at Bobonawan and Pacquiao Building Uptacha.

The sustainable forum Silver Linings is made possible by Avalde, the Philippine Daily Inquirer, Asia Zenera, C-Network, Interbella, Pagcor, GMA, Tourism Infrastructure and Enterprise Zone Authority, Magic Coffee, and Restorante Spirale.

Silver Linings is in cooperation with breast-patients' Smiles, Living Hope, Atlanta, the Davao Association for Cancer Awareness Inc., and the Department of Surgery of Davao Doctors Hospital.

For more info: 0282-227-9667 (Davao), 632-6365570 (Manila), or 0922-2339139 (Cebu), or e-mail silverlinings@consavefamilies.com.ph.

The Kanlaeron Foundation is an advocacy group of breast cancer survivors that provides early breast cancer detection through its community-based cancer screening programs and through high-impact information campaigns.

Kumon Free Trial: A Kindness Movement

Whether by nature or by an engineer like his dad, a desire like his dad, a wonder like his son, or a writer like his mom, to see a child excelling and being passionate in his chosen field brings a lot of happiness to parents. It is the very reason why parents would do whatever it takes to help their children attain their goals in life.

Ms. Tess Bibong, founder of The Kumon Method of Learning, also had big aspirations for its child. But when he disappointed one, Tabachi, came home with a low score on his math test, Tess knew he had to do something to aid in the development of his child's skills. Thus, he decided to create a series of math problems for his son to answer everyday.

As soon as he saw how capable Tabachi was in answering calculus problems even though he was still in Grade-6, Tess realized how effective the worksheets were. He also saw how Tabachi's advancement not only improved his academic standing, but also brought about confidence and discipline in him.

Knowing that it would be a short wave if only Tabachi benefited from this, Tess launched the Kindness Movement—a movement that aimed to spread Kumon all over the world, a movement that brought Kumon to the Philippines.

Tess believed that the same academic skills and character developed through the Kumon Method of Learning would give children the edge they need to attain their goals in life. Thus, it became his lifelong mission to let as many children as possible experience the joy of advancement and the happiness that comes along with it.

Pursuing the Kindness movement that our founder started 30 years ago, Kumon Philippines, now on its 10th year, will be opening its doors to students of all ages to try the Kumon Method of Learning—all for free!

From September 16 to 30, 2011, parents will have the opportunity to enroll their children for two weeks—free of charge—and experience the method that has been developing the abilities of over 4 million students worldwide.

Entitled by its mission to discover the potential of each child and develop his ability to the maximum, Kumon aims to foster sound and capable individuals to contribute to the global community. With this in mind, Kumon aims to develop in children confidence, a sense of achievement, and the right attitude towards learning.

Grab this opportunity to experience the Kumon advantage! Help your child take a step closer towards his destiny!

To know more about the free trial, please visit your nearest Kumon center or call the Manila Office at 892 893-8226 or 1-800-1-800-8271 and for outside Metro Manila. For students from Visayas and Mindanao, please call Ms. Cebu branch office at (032) 236-1347.

Fighting for the eradication of hepatitis B

THE YELLOW Warriors Society of the Philippines (YWSP) is a national organization of hepatitis B wives (HBW), parents and advocates who fight for and believe in the eradication of Hepatitis B. Their cause is not only something they believe in, it is personal. As Pamela Chua of YWSP shares, "Two years ago, I lost an uncle to liver cirrhosis. It is personal because to me in many ways, when the chance of my mom to push for it came."

Starting out as an online group in April 2007, the society became a virtual venue for sharing, motivating and inspiring patients and their families to continue their lives in spite of the illnesses. In 2010, the YWSP was formalized as a national organization and now represents the Filipino HBV patients as a voting member of the World Hepatitis Alliance based in Geneva, Switzerland.

In the Philippines, Hepatitis B is said to be the leading cause of liver damage resulting in liver cirrhosis and liver cancer. Studies show that in the Philippines there is a hepatitis B carrier rate of around 9-16 percent. This means that out of 10 people, at least one is a carrier of Hepatitis B.

In addition to being a serious health threat, another burden lies on the discrimination that infected individuals receive from society. Hepatitis B is hypersensitive in the Philippines. It can happen to anyone regardless of social status, orientation, religion, gender and sexual orientation.

In response to calls for access to hepatitis B treatment, multinational pharmaceutical company Roche Philippines has partnered with the Hepatology Society of the Philippines (HSP), with the support of the YWSP, to launch the PEGASSIST Easy Access Plan for patients with Hepatitis B.

Through the PEGASSIST Easy Access Plan, patients with Hepatitis B can have access to the hepatitis treatment medication with discounts up to 50 percent. "The PEGASSIST Easy Access Plan translates the medication discount system. This means patients who truly cannot afford the medication will get a higher discount according to," said Dr. Dennis Dofitas, Roche specialty business unit director.

"In addition to providing discounts on the medications, Hepatitis B patients will also be provided with free selected hepatitis B laboratory tests that would have otherwise been very expensive," said Dr. Dofitas.

The program is a landmark step for all HBV organizations, patients, and their families.

(LLF) 7/07/2011

PSID alumni night

THE OFFICERS and board of the Philippine School of Interior Design Alumni Association invite all alumni to the first PSID Alumni Night on Sept. 20 at SM City North EDSA (beside Interior Zone) at "Just Sit For Me" exhibit venue of the Advance Class of 2011.

Registration begins at 5 p.m. Pre-registration for a P350 and on-site registration fee is P500 inclusive of cocktails and alumni card. Alumni may log on to the Philippine School of Interior Design Alumni page on Facebook for updates. Call 8847-3616/182.

SkyBroadband promo

SkyBroadband offers a fast 5Mbps plan for P999, with a 10GB usage allowance. That's five times faster than the usual 1 Mbps offered by other Internet service providers.

The new SkyBroadband plan has a data volume allowance of 10GB, enough for users to have unlimited access to social networking, download up to 3.7 GB songs or download up to 20 movies, access to 125 hours of video streaming, or 588 hours of talk time in Internet telephony. All these activities can be mixed and matched, depending on your usage habits.

For light to moderate Internet users, this is the ideal plan for you. If in case however you think 10GB isn't enough, you have the option to add P100 on top of the initial P999 and you get an additional 10GB, a first for the industry. SkyBroadband is also offering Plan 5Mbps with 5GB usage allowance at P1,999 a month.

SkyBroadband gives broadband subscribers their money's worth, giving them blazing fast Internet speeds at only P999. As a bonus, subscribers get free access to Friendly, a website that allows them to catch up on missed episodes of their favorite ABS-CBN and GMA shows.

If you want to know more about Plan 5Mbps at P999, you may visit skybroadband.com or call 631-9999 or 730-9999.

PROMINA Instant porridge and Promina kids cereal now have the Sangkap Pinoy seal issued by the by the Department of Health which means the items have essential micronutrients like Vitamin A and iron, available in different flavors, distributed by Bioferds Corp.

The MEDICard Health and Wellness Bulletin

Take Charge, Doc!

ASTHMA

Asthma is a common disease of the lungs, affecting millions of people. It is a chronic lung condition that could potentially be fatal. "Take Charge, Doc!" brings you information about asthma that can help you better understand its causes, symptoms, and treatment options. It answers, and can help reduce, your fears about asthma. Healthier life.

Symptoms

Asthma is a condition that makes breathing difficult. This causes a feeling of tightness in the chest. When an asthma attack occurs, the lining of the lungs swells becoming swollen. This air passages fill up with thick mucus and the muscles around the airways tighten. This greatly decreases the airflow in the lungs, and leads to symptoms such as difficulty breathing and tightness in the chest. This could also be potentially life-threatening.

Triggers

Many things can lead to the inflammation in the lungs and abnormal airways muscle tightening, and these are known as triggers. Triggers include:

- Environment to which a person may be allergic, such as animal hair or dandelions, mold, pollen, and dust.
- Airborne irritations, such as cold, cold air, dust, and weather.
- Particles in the air from car exhausts or other pollution.
- Medications such as aspirin or ibuprofen.
- Food additives, such as sulphites found in wine.
- Some diseases such as colds.
- Stress and trauma of extreme laughter or crying.

Diagnosis

Repeated occurrences of difficulty breathing and wheezing are indications that a patient may have asthma. After taking a detailed medical history and listening to your lungs, your physician may ask you to have special tests done, such as the Peak Expiratory Flow Rate Test and Peak Flow Test. These tests are to determine the ability of your lungs to function. A chest x-ray may also be done to check for other diseases that have the same symptoms of asthma.

Treatment Options

The most important part of the treatment plan for asthma is to prevent severe asthma attacks. If an asthma attack has already occurred, the treatment will aim at relaxing the attack and restoring breathing to normal as quickly as possible.

- It is important to control the triggering factors. Wearing a mask while cutting the lawn if a person is aware that hay aggravates their asthma, for example, etc., are ways to avoid triggers.
- Medication is one of the most important treatments for asthma. There are two types of medication: reliever medication usually contains relaxing medications that will decrease the inflammation of the airways and counteract the sensitivity of the lungs to allergens, such as corticosteroids and non-steroidal medications.
- To prevent a severe asthma attack or asthma, non-medication are usually used. The aim of these medications is to stop the inflammation of the airways. Some of these medications act quickly and are needed almost all over those episode of breathing are usually taken long-term.
- Even though some severe asthma attacks can be reduced by exercise, exercising under controlled conditions helps the lungs and muscles to be stronger, more efficient.

MEDICard has been providing Medical Staffing and Corporate Clinic Management Services for more than 20 years. As part of our dedication to better serve your health needs, we are also providing comprehensive Occupational Health and Wellness Services, including the necessary requirements and services that will support accredited health and preventive. Inquiries are welcome at 894-0800, 894-8811, e-mail@medicardphil.com.

Like us on Facebook

Business Solutions Group, 2nd Floor, The Medicard Center, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig, Metro Manila, Philippines
Tel. No.: 894-0800, 894-8811 • Fax: 856-6453 to 54 / 894-0214
Email: inquiry@medicardphil.com • Website: www.medicardphil.com

LUCY Calderon, sales manager, for social media. "I ... complete ... minutes on foot thrice a week. Favorite running shoes: Asics Gel Kinsei 3. "They're light, they're pricey, and they're nice on my feet."

RUBUT Fatima, business development. Runs 8 to 10 minutes on foot thrice a week. Favorite running shoes: Adidas

MIKE Cruces, 22, chemical engineer. He participated in a half-marathon. Runs 8k to 11k foot times a week. Likes his Tiempo to those himself favorite running shoes: Adidas and Nike. "Adidas is lightest but Nike offers support."

PASTOR Ronny Pagaduan, 33, pastor, Christ's Church in Makati. Runs for at least an hour thrice a week. "I run at night because it's cooler, walking alone." Likes cross-training shoes which he also uses for training. Prays while running.

The running crowd is growing–at cocktail hour

From page B1

medicine, still others use special gadgets. There are those who turn technology for kind.

Inquirer Lifestyle Wellness went to Bonifacio Global City one evening to see cocktail-hour runners in action.

We found a good mix of people. Co-workers who wanted to try running outside the gym. Members of Filipinas Storm running now musicianners. Friends exercising together. Joggers who like going solo. Experienced runners. Newbies. All united by their love for running.

COCKTAIL hour runners at Bonifacio Global City

NEIL Nidoza, 33, founder, Filipinas Storm Mountaineering and Outdoor Club. Runs 10k thrice a week. Favorite running shoes: Asics

[From left] MIKE Cruces, MICHELLE GOSNAN, 24, IT specialist
Usually hikes or walks on the treadmill in the gym thrice a week, but might switch to running
"Was embarrassed in the 'pag-uwian'."
Favorite running shoes: Nike "Comfy, support."
EMERSON COMIA, 26, distribution and facilities specialist
Runs thrice a week for 45 to 60 minutes
Plays futsal
Usually runs in the gym but decided to run outside "para maiba naman."
MARIA CRISTINA ARDIA, 27, recruiting specialist
Runs thrice a week for 45 to 60 minutes
Usually runs in the gym but might start running regularly at Bonifacio Global City. "She-ying things."
Favorite running shoes: Nike "It's comfortable, parang walang sout."

MICHI Gutierrez, 41, accountant
Runs for at least an hour thrice to four times a week
Favorite running shoes: Nike
Watches: mobile phone to time herself

RECHELLE Nitafan, 49, medical transcriptionist. Runs from 8k to 11.3k thrice a week
Favorite running shoes: Nike "They're comfortable."
Running must-have: Run Keeper, an iPhone app that tracks time, pace and calories burned

Charice in Singapore Formula One gig

SINGLE PP30 Division will be on Sept. 16-20 in Singapore , as part of the Formula One night race.

"Singapore will come alive with activities, parades, theatrical street productions and other showcases for the whole family during SPF30," said Sherma Dhan, Singapore Tourism Board's area director for the Philippines and Brunei.

A Formula One ticket allows you access to a line-up of over 200 entertainers, including four Grammy award-winning artists. Singapore's world-class chefs and mixers open hours of food and bars. Visitors can also enjoy the support races like the Porsche Carrera Cup Asia and Ren JK Racing Asia Series ongoing on the track. Ticket prices start at P1,300 for a Friday Zone 4 walk-about ticket to P16,000 for a three-day Pit Grandstand ticket.

Two-time Grammy award winner rock band Linkin Park plays at the Padang stage on race days, Sept. 25 –no first-served basis. Rihanna performs on Sept. 24, Filipino singer Charice Pempengco will be on stage on Sept. 23-24. Shaggy will perform Sept. 23-25. Marcus Mumford's Country-R & B band plays on Sept. 23. Rick Astley sings on Sept. 24-25.

Disney Line room packages

Discovery Suites, the premier serviced residence hotel in the heart of the Ortigas Business District, will treat families in a rare and exciting encounter with beloved Disney characters through the Disney Line VIP Experience.

Book for a Disney Line VIP Experience room package at Discovery Suites and enjoy the following overnight stay with breakfast buffet with two persons, family VIP section tickets to the Oct. 8 or 9 Disney Live! Mickey's Movie Festival presentation at the Smart Araneta Coliseum, exclusive access for two persons to the Disney Meet and Greet boards scheduled at the Colombus and Magellan Function rooms of Discovery Suites on Oct. 2, and a raffle ticket that will grant upon check-in that will give guests a chance to win an x-box night stay at Discovery Shores Boracay or an overnight stay at Discovery Country Suites Tagaytay.

The package is available for P9,800 net for a Junior Suite and P10,800 net for a One Bedroom Suite. Room packages for two - and three bedroom suites are also available.

Call 7788888 or 8168888 e-mail or marie@discovery.com.ph.

Fitness First for 'The Biggest Loser'

Fitness First health club partnered with ABS-CBN to support its hit reality program The Biggest Loser Pinoy Edition. Fitness First set up a satellite gym, with its world-class star trainer/equipment, within The Biggest Loser Pinoy Edition camp for the contestants, who have been following a rigorous transformation plan to achieve their life-transforming weight-loss goals. Fitness First has over 165 clubs worldwide.

30 Years of Magic
Three decades of good times and great taste

The man behind McDo

"There's no way to get around your true passion. Sooner or later you will have dealt with it—either with joy because you've finally found it, or with regret because you weren't brave enough to pursue it. The choice is always yours."

This is a quote from George T. Yang, referring to the inevitable opportunity for success.

As chairman and founder of McDonald's Philippines, George was able to build a strong franchisee and expand McDonald's presence nationwide, changing the landscape of the quick-service restaurant industry by setting standards on food quality, service and convenience for Filipino customers.

Journey to success

George Yang on building the Golden Arches from the ground up in the Philippines

By Raquel P. Gomez

"GOOD MORNING. May I have your order, sir?" said George T. Yang with a lilt in his voice. He was in his late 30s, wearing a maroon uniform with a paper cap on his head, and manning the sales counter of a McDonald's store in Hong Kong.

At that time, more than 30 years ago, George was already a successful entrepreneur backed by a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration from De La Salle University and a Master's in Business Administration from the Wharton business School.

So why would George, now Chairman of Mc-Donald's Philippines, end up as a fast food crew wearing a Funny-looking hat?

Jump starting the McDonald's franchise

George's short McDonald's stint in Hong Kong played a pivotal part in a series of events that led to the opening of the first McDonald's store in the Philippines in 1981.

"In the 1970s, McDonald's Corp., based in Illinois, USA, hardly knew anything about the Philippines. It was eyeing Europe for expansion," said George.

Already the entrepreneur, George saw an opportunity and became interested in bringing the Golden Arches to the country. He started his application for a master franchise and began corresponding with McDonald's Corp., writing about the country it knew very little of. He would also send clippings of economic news and sometimes just a letter of hello to remind the company of his intent to bring the fast food chain to the Philippines. The went on for a few years at a time when emails and the Internet did not exist.

When McDonald's Corp. decided to finally look into the matter, a visit to the country in 1976 was scheduled. The visit however was set only to coincide with George but to assess other candidates applying for the master franchise as well.

"Compared to the other groups making a bid for McDonald's, I was a nobody. Everyone else had huge assets or rich and influential partners to back them up. I didn't have that. I was just a small guy on Pasay's arts district over by determination and perseverance—coming on extra mile," said George.

Nine days was the year where George's stint in McDonald's Hong Kong came in.

According to George, McDonald's Corp. would usually give an on-the-job-evaluation (OJE) to candidates applying for the franchise. The OJE was a kind of job immersion program that provided McDonald's Corp. with insights into the capability of a potential franchisee. Even without being asked or required to, George went ahead and volunteered to do his own OJE in McDonald's Hong Kong through the help of a friend, Daniel Lee, the franchise owner of a McDonald's store there. He brought his son Kenneth, who was only 15-years-old and all too willing and eager to experience a summer job abroad.

In the middle of that one-week stint, the Illinois office heard about George's efforts and contacted his friend Daniel to ask why he was allowing George to have an OJE when the company had not yet awarded the master franchise to him.

But George was determined to learn the business and went ahead with his plan.

George reflects to Hong Kong time as a "jump start" and a great way of immersing himself in a business he would be in for the next 30 years. Grill time, donkey or just pure hard work, executives of McDonald's Corp. recognized George's efforts and saw him as a man who would undoubtedly and grow the brand the Philippines.

Making the dream happen

The first McDonald's in the Philippines finally opened in 1981 along the busy street of Bonifacio. George remembered it was filled with customers the opening day.

"People were lining up. We had to close the door to keep more people from coming in otherwise the store would burst," George said.

"When he was still applying for the franchise, executives from McDonald's Corporation asked him 'How many stores do you plan on building?' My dad boasted that he would build 15 stores," recalled Kenneth. George's eldest son said now the president and CEO of McDonald's Philippines.

To date, McDonald's Philippines has over 320 stores nationwide with plans of increasing the number to 600 over the next 3-5 years—definitely a number beyond his wildest dreams. But George, the entrepreneur that he is, had the vision and determination to make the dream happen.

Building Value through People

"In the early years, my dad would regularly go to McDonald's stores in Cubao, Monumo, and Greenhills to check on them, talk to the employees, observe customers and sometimes even talk to them randomly. Every night, he would do that," said Kenneth.

Aside from being very hands-on, dad had the knack of hiring the right people," added Kenneth. "My dad believed in investing in the growth of people and would often say 'You cannot grow any business unless you grow employees.' Some them were well and believe they can deliver." These are the same principles I practice today," Kenneth added.

George is a "results oriented boss," according to Jim Tenbusch, director for Treasury, who has been with the company for 27 years. "When he asks for a report, it's not enough that you give him a sheet full of data and numbers. He wants you to go deeper and analyze what they really mean."

"He may appear to be a strict boss because he is hands-on, but there's a soft side to him," said Sofie Nagali, director for Accounting, and takes pride having spent almost 30 years with McDonald's Philippines. "Even when I was lately crew, he would ask me about my family or when I was planning to get married. He is always interested in how his people are doing, always other-wise really being."

Changing the Quick Service Restaurant Landscape in the Philippines

Throughout the years, McDonald's has changed the "fast food" restaurant culture by pioneering many firsts, including training programs for its crew and managers. George said he would often ask counter professionals who approached him just to tell him that they want to work in McDonald's.

"What we've started has become an industry benchmark," said George.

When it was first introduced in the country, McDonald's as a brand had marks of Western's services all over it. George knew that to be able to win Filipino consumer hearts, he had to make it a brand proud of its global heritage but with a Filipino heart. With that in mind, he went to McDonald's Corp.'s executives and proposed items, during rice, fried chicken, and spaghetti into the local McDonald's menus. Back in the old days, McDonald's was known for its core menu, and most of it to be a standard in all consumers where McDonald's was operating.

"I told them I want to serve spaghetti. Many families celebrate children's birthday parties at McDonald's, and it's a tradition for Filipinos to eat noodles at parties. I also asked for fried chicken and rice to be introduced. I told them, Filipinos don't consider a sandwich as a full meal, they want rice."

Eventually, McDonald's Corp. agreed and Chicken McDo and McSpaghetti became staple dishes at every local McDonald's store. Soon, more products catering to the Filipino palate was introduced, such as Burger McDo and breakfast meal of longganisa, egg, and rice.

George was right. This, together with a whole slew of other innovations has kept customers coming back to McDonald's.

Elements of success

After 30 years of running the business, George still has the habit of visiting a McDonald's store to keep himself abreast with day-to-day operations. He gravitates to ice creams and chats away with the McDonald's team, and is still involved in the growth and progress of the business. George still holds office at McDonald's, serving as a very much sought after consultant and advisor.

McDonald's Philippines is now a wholly Filipino-operated company with majority shares owned by Golden Arches Development Corp., and the remaining with partner Andrew Tan of Alliance Global Inc. Sixty percent of the stores is owned and operated by the company, while the remaining 40 percent is owned by local franchisees. It currently employs over 27,000 people.

Today Kenneth—the kid George took with him to Hong Kong to train at McDonald's as a crew—sits on the company's president and CEO. Under Kenneth's leadership, the company continues to grow based on what the father started, going into the next level by pioneering store innovations, and keeping McDonald's ahead in the industry. To date, McDonald's has stores all over the country, most of which are equipped with drive-thru facilities and McDelivery, and now, customers can enjoy utmost convenience with McDonald's dessert centers and McCafé counters.

The road to success still involves the twin elements of values and principles, said a reminiscing George. "Reputation, integrity, perseverance, and hard work are very important. Add fair dealing and honesty. These are important characteristics that one should always stick to."

An early photo of George Yang in the 1980's with the McDonald's crew

George stands at the McDonald's Cinema crew with other top Bonnoch Yang at the helm as president and CEO

The first McDonald's store was opened in Marikina in 1981

One of the new stores in 2011, McDonald's Valley Golf features a contemporary red dark look

Lessons from the Founder

George Ang has groomed and certainly mentored countless associates who are now experts in various fields of business. For those employees, who have been with George throughout his McDonald's journey, the founder has imparted valuable lessons that they leveraged to excel to this day.

1) Kenneth Yang, President and CEO

"He have to work hard and you have to think big. What we have always held true: never adopt for back-up strategy. In the can be whatever you want to be as long as you believe in yourself."

2) Pat Tantiado, Director for Treasury

"She is a working mom—actually she has married and motherhood — for the company. So for you people—and if you have both, you will succeed."

3) Hollie Nagal, Director for General Accounting

"If you're trying your job, you must always persevere. With perseverance. Nothing is impossible."

4) Irma Roman, Senior Accounting Manager

"She told always appreciate the value of people—you can't do everything alone, and Mr. Yang has always shown how he loved by people because the McDonald's way. he're re-anyone to progress in garden."

The art of giving back

By Raquel P. Gurrea

A man of principle and sound values, George T. Yang, chairman and founder of Golden Arches Development Corp., has always championed causes close to his heart like education and music. He believed it necessary to give back to the community on which the McDonald's brand had built its success. "At the heart of the McDonald's brand is making a difference, especially in the lives of children," said George. "It is but natural for us to go beyond providing quality food and services, extending our efforts to helping them build a good foundation for a brighter future."

Ronald McDonald House Charities Philippines (RMHC), the charity of choice of McDonald's, is focused on its flagship program Bright Minds Read (BMR). McDonald with the Department of Education (DepEd), BMR, a 12-year program, aims to teach first grade students in public schools beginning reading.

The BMR winners serenaded the audience with a moving performance at George's solo concert, "Musika! Musika!

"We're sorry that our public school system needs a lot of improvement and it starts with reading. If you cannot read, you cannot learn. It is the basic/essential skill that every child should learn," said George.

BMR was designed as a response to two implicit news, which revealed that four out of 10 first graders finish the first year knowing how to read. In 2002, a BMR pilot test in 14 public schools in 14 municipalities in the National Capital Region that involved 4,000 pupils produced favorable results—the program helped in reducing from 40 percent to only 6 percent the rate of non-readers among first graders.

Presently, in over 2,700 public schools, BMR is a reading program that incorporates effective methods of storytelling and other effective reading methods that can be implemented in the classroom. Each BMR school is given a kit that includes 33 illustrated Adarna House books, 28 of which are in Filipino and five in English. The books were carefully selected to not only aid the children in their learning through exciting stories and dynamic pictures, but to also help inculcate values and moral lessons that will contribute to character development.

"When I was growing up, my father had always emphasized the value of education and worked hard to make sure that all his children received one. I share the same belief and it is something that I constantly remind my children and now grandchildren," said George.

And, as a man who always portrays his passions, George translates the value of education to another noteworthy project called Kantod Bituk Foundation (KBF), which provides scholarship grants to deserving students of classical music.

The founder of McDonald's Philippines wears another hat apart from McDonald's. George the entrepreneur is also American George the tenor.

"I was already a senior citizen when I discovered I could sing," said an amused George admitting to a karaoke night with friends that got him hooked into singing.

"Every time I go back in the karaoke place, I sing better and better. My singing of classical music such as O Sole Mio or Nessun Dorma excites him."

In any event, George got the opportunity to sing with Filipino soprano Rachelle Gonzalez, who eventually took him in as student. There's where he started singing arias seriously, and soon George found himself singing in Gaye venues such as the CCP PICC, Philam Life Theater, and SCBC Theater. He also did a solo concert and sang with Charice Pempengco.

"Because God gave me this talent, I want to give back and help these wonderful singers," said George on the creation of BMR. Already on its fourth year, BMR currently oversees 33 scholars.

Apart from learning their craft in the schools where they are enrolled, the scholars further hone their talent by attending a Master Class either done in George's home. The recent Master Class was conducted by international Filipina baritone Andrea Fernando, who gave the students voice techniques.

"I carry the same principles I have as business here in our work for the community, which I also wish for the students under BMR and KMD to one day emulate" said George. "Persistence. Hard work. And you have to believe in yourself. Stay focused, and be honest. Those are the characteristics that are important if you wish to succeed, and I have no doubt that our students will."

INQUIRER GROUP
Empowering the Filipino people.
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
INQUIRER PUBLICATIONS, INC.
PRINT TOWN
HINGE INQUIRER
megaMobile
CEBU DAILY NEWS
99.5 IQ 990AM RADYO INQUIRER
INQUIRER.net

Why Pinoys really love their phone cameras

By Anne R. Jamboy

REMEMBER HOW the classic Nokia 5310 changed your life? How that bulky cellphone allowed you to express yourself via colorful Xpress-On covers, and how you spent hours playing one of only three second games—Memory, Logic or Snake?

Remember, too, when texting was free, and how sending text messages changed the way we lived, such that we were named the text messaging capital of the world in the 90s?

Recent studies by the Finnish mobile technology giant Nokia and the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Company (PLDT) said that time as one of the most active takers and sharers of mobile phone photos on the Web.

The study conducted online in eight countries including India, Italy, Singapore and Thailand with more than 8,000 respondents each, revealed that 76 percent of Filipinos take photos using their mobile phones at least once a week. Thirty-one percent said they enjoy using their phones every day.

Taking photos using the cellphone is so popular in the Philippines, said Nokia Philippines communications manager Nikka Alave, that the company first considered when buying a new phone is the quality of the camera. Next to consider are the megapixels of the camera. A not-so-distant third is the range of colors to choose from.

So where does the actual phone function figure into a typical Filipino's decision making? Well, apparently, nowhere. After all, phones are supposed to be for making and receiving calls and text messages. Today's market is also looking for the ability to shoot and share photos while on the move.

Shooting and sharing is, in fact, the Filipinos main motivation for taking pictures, Alave said. A staggering 81 percent said they prefer investing in mobile phones that can shoot and share photos on a social networking sites rather than buying a standalone camera. Only 5 percent of the respondents said they'd rather send photos directly to family and friends.

NOKIA N8 in pink

A special market

"The importance of quality, function and color, and the Filipinos' penchant for shooting and sharing photos, is what makes the Philippines a unique and special market for smartphones," Alave said.

Not surprisingly Filipinos like taking photos using their cellphones, they specifically like taking photos of themselves. Called GOOF (Groufotos Photos Of Yourself) by product online users or "camwhoring" by, well, everyone else, 84 percent of Filipinos aged 15-25 happily take photos of themselves using their cellphones, with 67 percent eager to share them on social networks like Facebook, Twitter or Foursquare.

"As people age, they become more selective in sharing photos online," Alave said.

Camera functions is another consideration when buying a phone, continued Alave, only 3 percent considered it irrelevant. Since Filipinos consider the cellphone's color, Nokia now has the high-end Nokia N8 in hot pink.

NOKIA's recent survey reveals that today's smartphone users are avid photographers and sharers of photos.

NOKIA N8 is designed for the style-savvy and social networking address.

A PHONE'S camera quality and stretch color are considered during purchase.

Nokia studies show that Filipinos are among the world's most active takers and sharers of mobile phone photos on the Web

look and shape, the Nokia N8 has high-power multimedia capabilities equipped with a 12-megapixel camera, Carl Zeiss optics and Nokia's flash for crisp photos, and HD videos. Shoot, edit, and share photos and videos on the phone.

The Nokia N8 also doubles as a portable entertainment center by playing HD-quality movies with Dolby Digital Plus surround that you can connect into your home theater system. The hot pink N8 has the latest Ovi Store, where you can access the latest game or social networking services apps. There are, in fact, pink-themed apps and backgrounds created especially to accessorize the hot pink N8.

If the Nokia N8 is out of the budget range, Nokia has the C2-01 that also allows you to access the Web and share photos online. The 5-mega pixel 3G phone, it has a 3.2-megapixel camera and a two-inch home screen. The C2-01 has a music player, an FM radio, and Bluetooth connectivity and can handle a memory card up to 32GB. It comes in black, silver, white, blue and coral pink.

The Philippines has not set a world record just yet, said Alave. As of last study, China is more active in shooting and sharing mobile phone pictures, with 90 percent. It is the Chinese admitting they like taking mobile photos weekly and 32 percent saying they take photos every day.

ALDUB, Kanna's newest Boy Band

Miso Musicals, K-Pop and more Korean fever at the malls

MALLGOERS WILL have a rare glimpse of Korea's traditional and modern cultures through this month-end Hallyu Superstars at the SM Malls nationwide.

A joint project of the SM Supermalls in cooperation with the Korean Cultural Center and SM Cinema, the event opens on Sept. 1 at the Mall of Asia Concourse with a Miso Musical and K-Pop performances by the Block B Sky Band at 6:30 p.m.

The Miso Musical has its roots in 1977, when the Jeongdong Theater opened with performances of traditional Korean dance and music, delighting audiences of all ages. In 2008, the show was named "Miso," which means "Beautiful Smile," and evolved into a traditional dance drama, love story chronicling the lost treasures in Korea.

The story continued to evolve, and in 2010, creators unveiled a new plotline, filled with love and jealousy as portrayed by the proud and boastful tradition of Korean dance and music. Since then, the Miso Musical has showcased the beauty, charm and excitement of the Korean performing arts through the story of Ouyang and Hongryang, Korean star-crossed lovers. On Sept. 3, it will be shown for the Korea Tourism Night at the SM Mall of Asia Concourse.

The evening will also feature a performance by Block B, a Korean Hip-hop group created by Korean hip-hop legend Dee.P.O. Block B released their first mini album, "New Kids on the Block," this June.

Korean fever will also sweep the SM Cinemas, as the Korean Film Festival unveils on Sept. 20-25 at the SM Malls of Asia and SM City North EDSA, and at SM City Cebu on September 20-Oct. 2. The public is invited to view the films for free.

MISO, the musical group, first staged in 1977, has toured worldwide throughout its 34-year run.

"SECRET Reunion"—about two ex-agents of the National Intelligence Service who keep their respective identities secret from each other.

"MWANG Jo Yi," a fictional series (in 20 of 49 episodes) for the once-renowned courtesan of the Choson Dynasty.

When does life begin?

Jaime T. Licanco

Contraception is not the same as abortion, as the Church and her followers mistakenly and stubbornly claim

THE RECENT controversy over the Reproductive Health (RH) bill has forced the Senate to rethink a subject normally left in the hands of religious shrine: "When does life begin?"

It is a question which has been debated by various philosophers and by religious thinkers since ancient times, but to which there is no generally accepted answer, even today.

Catch that year, a news flash appeared in the Inquirer stating that "doctors and bishops agree life begins at fertilization."

According to the newspaper report, this startling conclusion was made during a consultative meeting between the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) and the Philippine Medical Association (PMA), where the PMA delegation, headed by its current live director Dr. Arthur Cudi, through its specialty society, the Philippine Obstetrical and Gynecological Society, represented by its president, Dr. Sylvia Cuenco, "confirmed that life begins at fertilization."

The question that immediately came to my mind upon reading the above statement by the PMA was, "How did they arrive at the doctors know that? What is the basis for this conclusion? Did they talk to the unborn child and was told it entered the mother's body during fertilization?"

I am underscored the Church's stand on this issue of when life begins. It is based on pure belief or faith, and one cannot argue against one's belief. You just have to accept it without question. That's the basis of faith.

But medical doctors are supposed to be scientists, and their statements and conclusions should be based on science or at least on some rational grounds. I am very eager to know therefore how they arrived at the conclusion that "life begins at fertilization" or conception.

If they cannot provide any rational basis for it, then it can be regarded as mere opinion or hypothesis, and not as fact. I remember a principle in elementary logic which says, "a statement which is affirmed without proof can be denied without proof." Anybody can challenge that statement without affirming his own proof, either by the debate in the Senate will continue ad infinitum or without end.

But is there another point of view which says otherwise, that "life does not necessarily begin at conception or fertilization," and provide scientific basis for it?

Yes, there is! About 15 years ago, psychologist Dr. Helen Wambach conducted 5,000 past life hypnotic regressions on 5,000 subjects. One of the questions she asked the regressed subjects was, "When did you enter your mother's womb?"

The following were the outcome answers she obtained: 11 percent said that it months of pregnancy, 12 percent said at the end of six months, 29 percent said in the last three months, 33 percent said before birth, and 5 percent said shortly after birth.

Period of entry

Assuming, of course, that past life hypnotic regression is a valid technique for obtaining answers from one's subconscious mind, it would appear that the period of the womb's entry into the body is not fixed. It differs from individual to individual, governed mainly by the choices the parties themselves made at the karma they have.

This is consistent with the opinion of the historical prophet and prophet Edgar Cayce. While in trance, he declared that the time the soul enters the body is not fixed at conception. And that is why he said that astrological forecasts based on date of birth is subject to error.

He said such forecasts, to be accurate, should be based at the time the soul enters the mother's womb. But no one can tell exactly when that time is, and therefore, astrologers had to use the date and time of birth as basis for astrological readings.

If Dr. Helen Wambach's findings are correct, that the time of the soul's entry into the womb is not fixed at conception, then the Catholic Church's main objection against the Reproductive Health Bill, that it encourages curtailment of life, is tremendously weakened. For there may not be any life yet to be curtailed.

Contraception is not the same as abortion, as the Church and her followers mistakenly and stubbornly claim. That is why almost all Catholic and other Christian countries in the world, except the Philippines, Spain, Poland, Ireland, etc., allow the use of contraceptives.

If the Filipino people and the government do not wake up to the reality of runaway population growth which has resulted into rampant poverty, we may end up with even our poorest Asian neighbors.

NOTE:

My next lecture titled *Destiny, Soul and Karma* is on Sept. 10-11, 2011, Saturday and Sunday from 9 a.m to 5 p.m at Rm. 309 Prime Plaza I Cond., Legaspi St., Greenhill, Makati. Call tel. no. 838-7243 or mobile no. 0920-981-6962. E-mail: jamtlicanco@yahoo.com. Visit our website: www.jamtlicanco.com.

Is midnight snacking sabotaging your weight loss?

By Micah Felipe Maralaxia
Contributor

Your bad eating habit could be due to stress or an inadequate breakfast, or because of a disorder called 'night eating syndrome'

DO YOU wonder why you still find it difficult to lose weight despite all your best efforts? There might be something wrong with the latter part of your day—and it must be your midnight snacking.

Studies have already shown that midnight snacking causes weight gain. There are several reasons a person craves and munches food late at night, even after a satisfying dinner.

Stress and fatigue

You might be stressed from work, and you reward yourself with a snack at night, even after dinner. This is very common among people with stressful jobs who are always meeting deadlines, and who have sales quotas to reach every week, every month, or even daily.

I have discovered that most of my friends (former) husbands who have stressful jobs tend to regularly eat junk food at around two at night due to stress and to reward themselves with their favorite munchies.

Instead of eating as a quick fix for your stress, find alternative ways to deal with it, because eating unhealthy food and gaining more weight can actually double your stress.

The best solution to stress-eating at night is to get more sleep, to manage your time, and to find some stress management exercise that are confined to food.

You can get a home manager, listen to relaxing music before you sleep, meditate or pray at night, or even have an after dinner stroll with your wife/husband and reminiscence your worries, troubles and other issues.

You might not be eating enough breakfast or not eating at regular intervals, like every three to four hours, so you tend to eat more at night and even after dinner. You have a certain calorie requirement for the whole day and if you don't take a large percentage of it before dinner, there's a greater tendency to compensate for the missing calories at night as a normal physiological and psychological response.

However, if you want to control your weight, you should break this eating pattern. Between midnight snackers often consume more calories, as they tend to eat chips or sweets while watching TV at night, instead of eating healthier alternatives.

Start your day right by eating a 400 to 600-calorie breakfast (depending on your weight, physical activities, and goals) consisting of whole grain bread or cereal, rice, an egg, chicken or fish, a glass of low fat milk, and a piece of fruit. This meal combination will make you last even until lunch.

Always fill your stomach with "real foods," which combine carbohydrates, protein and fat, as these will be up your enzymes for high-calorie cuisine like sweets, flavored drinks, pastries and chips.

You might be used to eating something after dinner, not because of stress or hunger, but because you are aware that you have snacks readily available at home. This can always tempt you to eat even when not hungry, and this can develop into your habit.

Keep the high-calorie midnight snacks out of sight, out of mind. Do not buy something you think you might want after dinner, and never put a refrigerator in your room.

Talk to your family about your goals and concerns on how to avoid unnecessary eating late at night.

Make sure you keep healthier foods at home, such as fruits, yogurt, or low fat milk so you won't get tempted to order take-out food or go out late at night to buy food if you get hungry.

Break the habit by dozing early and avoiding late-night television watching.

Eating disorder

Midnight snacking can also be related to an eating disorder called "night eating syndrome" (NES). This relatively new disorder published in the Journal of the American Medical Association is described as having no appetite in the morning (morning anorexia) and overeating late at night with agitation and insomnia.

This eating disorder causes one to eat more at night in response to one's moods. People often eat high carbohydrate snacks at night. Causes of this disorder may include depression, anxiety, stress, boredom, prolonged dieting and body image issues.

The best way to resolve the "night eating syndrome" is to recognize the warning signs and symptoms and consult an eating disorder specialist or a mental health specialist to discuss treatment options.

Do you have little or no appetite for breakfast, and delay your first meal for several hours after waking up?

Do you eat more than half of daily food intake after dinner?

Do you feel tense, anxious, upset or guilty while eating late at night?

Are you usually moody, tense, anxious, nervous and agitated at night?

Do you have trouble falling or staying asleep, get up frequently and then eat?

Do you unintentionally eat throughout evening and usually choose sugary and starchy carbohydrates?

Does your late-night eating produce guilt and shame, or enjoyment?

Email the author at micahfelipe@gmail.com.

Capturing their worlds, one photo at a time

WHAT DO Gang Badoy and Ramon Bautista have in common, besides an addiction to Reality? Love for photography.

The name Gang Badoy is associated with Rock Ed Philippines, an NGO she founded that pushed for education through "Rock 'n' Roll," while Ramon Bautista is associated with all things awesome online. Their love stories deserve to be painted in "celuloused words."

Words that the new Nikon Coolpix series says fluently. With its revolutionary Exmor CMOS lens, Gang and Ramon could take on Manila, one picture at a time. Nikon Coolpix also has fifty Scene-recognition functions such as vibration reduction, motion detection and high ISO capability to take crisp images of what's happening around the camera.

The innovative Smart Portrait System makes taking beautiful photos easier, while the 360 Panorama Capture lets you take the whole picture in panorama, just by moving the camera. Experience memories all the more and carry Nikon Coolpix P7000 and P300, perfect for people who are always on the go.

Gang keeps herself busy these days, producing music and arts-creative events involve collaborating with other people. "I like talking photos of friends who come over to my house, especially while they're talking. I like the idea of freezing those moments of great conversations," she said.

ROCKER Philippines' Gang Badoy creates stunning photos with her Nikon Coolpix camera.

When he's not traveling like in UP Forever is taping for a special show, show he's hosting on TV. When he's on doing that, he's blogging, mostly photos and mostly of himself. "I'm a narcissist. I take photos of my friends because they're camwhores, too, and they're a lot of fun."

Gang is no newbie to a Nikon Coolpix; she started one in 2003 and got a new one this year. Ramon's first camera was a Nikon D40 and how he traveled the world with his portable box friend. "Shooting images which are very memorable."

Gang and Ramon's photographs are one to progress even further. While "63 the photographer, and not the camera," somewhere a great part of eyes goes to long way with great equipment.

Lessons from diet victories—and failures

WE ALL learn from other people's experiences, or our own, whether the easy or the hard way. But the best lessons are the ones where we fail. A famous line says, it's okay to make mistakes—the first time—but don't repeat them. Here are several inspiring stories.

Marina is a 53-year-old mother of five. Her early adulthood was spent working in the family business. But by age 30, she decided to retire. While still a working woman, she availed to skip meals due to pressing deadlines and hectic office hours. Thus, every chance she found time to take a break, her tendency was to head up to food—anything she could lay her hands on.

Over the years, this became a bad habit. Seventy extra pounds later, she plunged into depression. When she sought advice from experts, an endocrinologist discovered that she had hypothyroidism, the therapist insisted on regular sessions with her, and a fitness experts and gym designed her weight-loss program.

Rule no. 1: Bad eating habits cause long-term weight and health problems.

Johnny is a 26-year-old call center manager, supervising hundreds on his team. His normal hours are nocturnal—day is night and vice versa. Constantly feeding on his adrenaline, his constant beverages were coffee and sodas.

By the end of office hours, he would have consumed eight cups of coffee and two glasses of water. One day while in the toilet, he noticed that his urine was brownish yellow. Alarmed, he sought the help of the company physician.

Because food is your only fuel, choose your food wisely

The results? Kidney and bladder infection due to minimal consumption of water. Moreover, he was a diabetic. The regimen? He had to drink 10-15 glasses of water every hour. Within five hours, drinking two glasses of water every two hours. Within two days his urine had cleared.

Rule no. 2: Your body needs water and hydration.

Get out the scales, and say hasta-la-vista to high-calorie beverages drinks. Don't use "carb sugar" like brown or raw sugar in your coffee.

Diet tips

Some diet tips to remember:

DINNER TODAY:

½ tinapahan, thinly sliced and smoked

1 whole green apple, peeled and sectioned

1 cup raw wild honey or raw nectar honey

1 small banana

In a blender, mix all ingredients, add four ice cubes. Drink with or without the fiber. (Strawberry is optional.)

3. A fistful of food is all you need to be comfortably satisfied at meal time. If you follow this practice, you can eat five to seven times a day without gaining weight. Remember that hunger is your body's way of communicating to you that your energy is low. Therefore, must fuel it needed. Because food is your only fuel, choose your food wisely.

4. Never say never. When you deny yourself potato chips, chocolates, doughnuts, you tend to suffer rebound overeating. You could just simply cut back on the portions. It's simple: If you are in the habit of consuming two doughnuts a day, make it a half-doughnut serving instead. Sharing with your friends will not only help you in reducing the extra calories—it will also make you more popular!

5. Don't press over your weight. Stress leads to weight gain. Nervous eating is one of the best ways to gain. Take it slow and easy. The best weight lost is a gradual one. Even if it takes six months to accomplish, the results are more long-lasting.

6. Shape up through exercise. There is no better way to burn calories than to keep moving. So instead of waiting for to motivate, force it in a group class. It's a good start.

Author's note: "Grace is not."

Love and Light!

ENTERTAINMENT

Lira Soriano-G. Velarde

Local artists grab 8 of 10 Overall slots

TOP SELLERS: albums in the country for the week Aug. 15-21, based on Odyssey Music & Video's nationwide sales reports

ALONG line forms at SM Mall of Asia prior to auditions for "Prestige," GMA-7's latest singing talent search.

"PHOTOGS" audition mentors Jason Gibbs and Ariel Rebosa

SHOW host Dyan Alcasid interviews an aspirant.

Does the country need another singing contest?/E4

McCartney's first ballet

ROLLINGSTONE.COM reports that Stella McCartney is set to release the score of "Ocean's Kingdom," his first ballet, on Decca Records—almost 30 years after the label rejected his first outing band, The Scaffold. The production debuts in the New York City Ballet's Fall gala Sept. 22. The record hits stores in England on Oct. 3.

CHEER FACTOR

www.smcinema.com

SM CINEMA

PROMO!

Buy DISNEY'S-PIXAR CARS 2 ticket at SM Cinema Mall of Asia and SM Cinema Megamall and get to grab a prize. Exciting prizes at stake!

Because you're happiest with a FREE movie treat

IMAX

metro manila

SM NORTH EDSA
SM CITY MANILA
SM CITY STA. MESA
SM VALENZUELA
SM MALL OF ASIA
SM PAMPANGA
SM CITY BACOLOD
SM CITY BAGUIO
SM CITY BALIWAG
SM CITY BICUTAN
SM CITY BUTUAN
SM CITY CALAMBA
SM CITY CANLUBANG
SM CITY CEBU
SM CITY CLARK
SM CITY DASMARIÑAS
SM CITY DAVAO
SM CITY GENERAL SANTOS
SM CITY GRAND CENTRAL
SM CITY GUIGUINTO
SM CITY ILOILO
SM CITY LAOAG
SM CITY LEGAZPI
SM CITY LIPA
SM CITY MARILAO
SM CITY MASINAG
SM CITY NAGA
SM CITY OLONGAPO
SM CITY PAMPANGA
SM CITY PUERTO PRINCESA
SM CITY ROSALES
SM CITY SAN FERNANDO
SM CITY SAN JOSE
SM CITY SAN LAZARO
SM CITY SAN PABLO
SM CITY SORSOGON
SM CITY STA. ROSA
SM CITY TABLAC
SM CITY TARLAC
SM CITY TAYTAY
SM CITY TUGUEGARAO
SM CITY URDANETA
SM CITY VALENZUELA
SM FAIRVIEW
SM GRAND CENTRAL
SM MARIKINA
SM MASINAG
SM MOLINO
SM NOVALICHES
SM PAMPANGA
SM SAN LAZARO
SM SAN MATEO
SM SAN PEDRO
SM SOUTHMALL
SM STA. MESA
SM STA. ROSA
SM SUCAT
SM TAYTAY
SM VALENZUELA

luzon

SM CITY BAGUIO
SM CITY BALIWAG
SM CITY BICUTAN
SM CITY BUTUAN
SM CITY CALAMBA
SM CITY CANLUBANG
SM CITY CLARK
SM CITY DASMARIÑAS
SM CITY DAVAO
SM CITY GENERAL SANTOS
SM CITY GRAND CENTRAL
SM CITY GUIGUINTO
SM CITY ILOILO
SM CITY LAOAG
SM CITY LEGAZPI
SM CITY LIPA
SM CITY MARILAO
SM CITY MASINAG
SM CITY NAGA
SM CITY OLONGAPO
SM CITY PAMPANGA
SM CITY PUERTO PRINCESA
SM CITY ROSALES
SM CITY SAN FERNANDO
SM CITY SAN JOSE
SM CITY SAN LAZARO
SM CITY SAN PABLO
SM CITY SORSOGON
SM CITY STA. ROSA
SM CITY TABLAC
SM CITY TARLAC
SM CITY TAYTAY
SM CITY TUGUEGARAO
SM CITY URDANETA
SM CITY VALENZUELA
SM FAIRVIEW
SM GRAND CENTRAL
SM MARIKINA
SM MASINAG
SM MOLINO
SM NOVALICHES
SM PAMPANGA
SM SAN LAZARO
SM SAN MATEO
SM SAN PEDRO
SM SOUTHMALL
SM STA. MESA
SM STA. ROSA
SM SUCAT
SM TAYTAY
SM VALENZUELA

visayas + mindanao

SM CITY BACOLOD
SM CITY BAGUIO
SM CITY CEBU
SM CITY DAVAO
SM CITY GENERAL SANTOS
SM CITY ILOILO
SM CITY LAPU-LAPU
SM CITY MANDAUE
SM CITY TACLOBAN

HOTLINE: 470.22.22 / WEBSITE: www.smtickets.com

VISIT www.smcinema.com AND PURCHASE YOUR TICKETS ONLINE.
PAYMENT VIA DEBIT/ CREDIT AND ALL MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ARE ACCEPTED.

OFFERS A WIDE VARIETY OF FOOD AND DRINKS AT ALL SM CINEMA LOBBIES

ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD

For ticket reservations and screening schedule pls. visit: www.robinsonsmovieworld.com

Like us on F!
Follow us on

GALLERIA
MANILA
METRO EAST
NOVALICHES
FORUM ROBINSONS

ZOMBARKADANG ZOMBALLERS!

PATAYIN SA SHOKOT SI REMINGTON

www.robinsonsmovieworld.com

STA ROSA
LIPA
DASMARIÑAS
STARMILLS
PALIS
ANGELES
TACLOBAN
DUMAGUETE
BACOLOD
ILOILO
GENSAN
ILOCOS NORTE

NO registration. NO membership. NO hassle.
JUST CLICK & WATCH

www.robinsonsmovieworld.com

Buying your tickets and snacks is so easy.

ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD ONLINE BOOKING

IDENTITY Crisis in the late '90s

All systems go for Identity Crisis reunion gig

THE IDEA to hold a reunion concert was offered last year, said Jeni Chapman, ambassador of identity Crisis... one of the pioneering Filipino alternative bands of the 1990s. "But then (the promoters) didn't want to fly in (some members who were abroad. We felt we would be shortchanging the fans," Llapitan said the reasons.

But early this year there were offers anew in, prompting Llapitan to ask the programmer to join forces for the gig to happen.

It's now all systems go for "Relief Still"—billed as "a New Wave concert/dance party" to be held Sept. 8, 8 p.m. at SMC Stadium, Bonifacio Global City.

Jhary Consign, Identity Crisis guitarist, arrived Saturday from Hong Kong for the concert. (drummer Marvin Mendiola is flying in from the United States although bassist Rigo Anolasco, who succumbed to a heart attack in Singapore recently, will sadly be missed.

Completing the lineup are vocalists "Cool Carlo" Alonzo and Bradley Arcenas and Llapitan.

"We want it to be like a family reunion! We'll all be wearing our boots, trench coats and hairstyles as we used to," said Llapitan.

The concert will also feature Jess Pangan, Kudos Loves Mia Jess and Nicole Asencio, with party music by DJ Jon Rojas and Mode 2000.

Anabelle Concepcion

"A NO-NONSENSE ACTION FLICK A RETURN TO THE BARE, BULLETS AND BILLION OF TESTOSTERONE"

"GREAT UNDERWATER ACTION"

MTRCB RATED PG-13

DEEP GOLD

JESSE PHAM
JEYNEE ONG
MICHAEL SLESSINGER
LARRY PRODUIT
KRISTEN HOU

TRUST NO ONE

AUGUST 31
IN CINEMAS NATIONWIDE

Local artists grab 8 of 10 Overall slots

From page 01

Overall:

1) Sarah Geronimo, "Dear Heart," Viva; 2) Gary Valenciano, "Wish Love," Star; 3) Noel Cabangon, "Pyudu," Universal; 4) Noel Cabangon, "Panaginip," Universal; 5) Bruno Mars, "Just Hope & Hooligans," Warner; 6) Juris, "Forevermore," Star; 7) Various Artists, "Best Of Pinas Music Mix," Sony; 8) Ashley "TJ," MCA; 9) Sarah, "Sabado," MCA; 10) Various Artists "Love Songs Unplugged 6," Sony

OPM:

1) Sarah Geronimo, "Dear Heart," Viva; 2) Gary Valenciano, "Wish Love," Star; 3) Noel Cabangon, "Pyudu," Universal; 4) Noel Cabangon, "Panaginip," Universal; 5) Juris, "Forevermore," Star; 6) Various Artists, "Best Of Pinas Music Mix," Sony; 7) Various Artists, "Love Songs Unplugged 6," Sony; 8) Various Artists, "Pinoy Academy Class of 2011," CSAs; 9) Marvin Moreno, "Hiling ng Damdamin," Polyeast; 10) Various Artists, "My Popular Demand 3," Universal

odyssey MUSIC & VIDEO

Poems, reflections...

From page 04

melody simple but seamlessly done/The music of life, as precious, as dear

If you could for one moment know/This spark of romance, this exquisite glow/You would come and dance with me/Kindle this fire so we could see/All the children of the earth/Weave their magic and give new birth/To a world of freedom with no pain/A world of joy much more sane

Deep inside, you know it's true/but find that child, it's hiding for you.

Email me@ghelashagie@yahoo.com

NEWPORT CINEMAS

1 COLUMBIANA
CONAN

2 CARS
ONE DAY

3 CARS in 3D

4 FINAL DESTINATION 5
CRAZY STUPID LOVE

Robinsons Malls

MOVIE TIME

GREENBELT 4
1) FINAL DESTINATION 5 (3D)
2) COLUMBIANA
3) CARS 2 (3D)
4) TWEEN ACADEMY / WAY BACK HOME
5) FINAL DESTINATION 5
6) ONE DAY
7) CONAN / CRAZY STUPID LOVE

GREENBELT 1
1) COLUMBIANA
2) FINAL DESTINATION 5

GREENBELT 2
1) ONE DAY
2) FINAL DESTINATION 5 (3D)
3) COLUMBIANA
4) CARS 2 (3D)
5) CONAN / CRAZY STUPID LOVE

ALABANG TOWN CENTER
1) COLUMBIANA
2) FINAL DESTINATION 5 (3D)
3) CARS 2 (3D)
4) CRAZY STUPID LOVE/COLUMBIANA
5) ONE DAY

AYALA CENTER CEBU
1) RESERVED
2) COLUMBIANA
3) CARS 2 (3D)
4) FINAL DESTINATION 5

MARQUEE
1) FINAL DESTINATION 5 (3D)
2) CARS 2 (3D)
3) COLUMBIANA
4) TWEEN ACADEMY

MARKET! MARKET!
1) CARS 2 (3D)
2) ONE DAY
3) COLUMBIANA
4) FINAL DESTINATION 5 (3D)
5) FINAL DESTINATION 5
6) RESERVED
7) TWEEN ACADEMY

TRINOMA
1) FINAL DESTINATION 5
2) CONAN / CRAZY STUPID LOVE
3) CARS 2 (3D)
4) FINAL DESTINATION 5 (3D)
5) ONE DAY
6) TWEEN ACADEMY
7) COLUMBIANA

ABREEZA
1) CARS 2 (3D)
2) FINAL DESTINATION 5
3) COLUMBIANA
4) TWEEN ACADEMY

For ticket reservations or purchases,
text SureSeats to 2910
(for Globe and Smart) or
log on to www.sureseats.com
Movie schedules may change without prior notice.
For verification, please call 729-7777.

MOVIE SPECIAL

trust
A MUST SEE MOVIE
★★★★
"SOPHISTICATED AND MOVING. Clive Owen is superb."
OPENS SEPTEMBER 7 AT GLORIETTA 5, GREENBELT 3 AND TRINOMA CINEMA 8

MALL EVENTS

GLORIETTA
GREENBELT
ALABANG TOWN CENTER
AYALA CENTER CEBU
BONIFACIO HIGH STREET
TRINOMA
MARQUEE
ABREEZA
ONSTAGE

MALL SPECIAL

OPUS ORCHESTRA
Gerard Salonga
Andrew Kwan Center's featured artists:
LEA SALONGA
MARTIN NIEVERA

glorietta Greenbelt Ayala Center Cebu Bonifacio High Street Trinoma MARQUEE Abreeza

Visit www.ayalamalls.com.ph or text AYALA MALLS to 2048

Singer-mentors back up 'Proteges'

GMA 7 launches yet another talent contest

By Rayzel Ian Diego Jr.

DOES the country need another singing contest?

Apparently it does—judging from the huge turnout during the last leg of audition for the new GMA 7 reality search "Proteges," held at the SM Mall of Asia Music Hall last weekend.

"So many Filipinos want to become famous," said talent manager Joji Bregoring, who sits on auditions panels, along with Jaime Gilbo and GMA Artist Center executive Annette Gozon-Valdes.

Compared to previous Kapuso shows like "Pinoy Pop Superstar" and "Pinoy Idol," what makes "Proteges" unique is the presence of mentors, until program manager Ruth Ramirez-Martinez.

The mentors visited nine places all over the archipelago: Bacolod, Asin Go to Cebu, Imelda Papin in Camarines Sur, Jaime Gilbo in Iloilo, Jay Sianta in Pampanga, Jay R in Nueva Ecija, Chance de la Fuente in Batangas, Jona in Davao, Aldo de Jesus Encarnacion in Pangasinan, Aiza Seguerra in Cagayan de Oro, and Glaiza de los Reyes-Manila.

In each stop, the mentors scoured the area for promising talents.

Gilbo recalled how slum communities in Bacolod, Iloilo, Cebu and Davao were hard hit by flooding.

Before the final round with the mentors, the contestants performed for the audition masters.

Bregoring revealed that from the "hundreds" that trooped to SM MOA, they were able to narrow down their choices to "200 plus" after almost 12 hours of tryouts.

"We finished past midnight," Bregoring recounted. "The final round of auditions, with mentor Glaiza, lasted from 2 p.m. till 2:30 a.m. the following day."

The list was narrowed down to three in the Manila leg, Each mentor chose three finalists—bringing the total to 261 aspirants, when the show starts airing on Sept. 4.

In a way, the mentors are also competing to ensure that their proteges will land on top. (The mentor will win a "substantial sum," while the grand champion gets P1 million in cash, and other prizes.)

There are other differences from previous contests, said Martinez.

BLING aspirant Annie Sena

It's open to solos, duos, trios and groups (up to five members) and "protege" doesn't impose an age limit, explained Grammy host Ogie Alcasid. Contestants will be judged on the basis of "talent, charisma, stage presence and marketability."

Alcasid said the finalists that "while the older contestants are more seasoned and professional, the younger ones are more hip and in touch with the latest trends in music."

The youngest aspirant who made the cut was Prince Mendiola, a 6-year-old boy from Batangas, while the most senior was Nida de los Santos, a 72-year-old resident of Dagupan.

The judges are Joey de Leon, Sheryl Lent and Louie Ocampo.

"The show can become unpredictable," said Alcasid, "because the judges' opinions matter."

That was one lesson the network had picked up from its "Pinoy Idol" experience, said Alcasid who was a judge in the world-renowned franchise.

"It shouldn't just depend on text votes; the judges' assessment should also be given weight," the host remarked.

E-mail: bayanmusic@yahoo.com

YOUNG contender Vince Pulido

NOW SHOWING IN 3D AT
DIGITAL CINEMA
BUY YOUR TICKETS NOW!
NOW SHOWING IN 3D AT
DIGITAL CINEMA
BUY YOUR TICKETS NOW!
Welcome to the country's one & only true private cinema.

Poems, reflections by Michael Jackson

All A true blue Michael Jackson fanatic, allow me to pay homage to the late great King of Pop in celebration of his birthday (Aug. 29, 1958). MJ would have been 53 yesterday.

Among all my MJ memorabilia, I treasure his book "Dancing the Dream: Poems and Reflections by Michael Jackson" the most. MJ dedicated the book to his mother, Katherine, and it has a foreword by his best friend, Elizabeth Taylor. It also contains 100 glossy photographs. The book is published by Doubleday in 1992, and reissued by Transworld in 2009 after MJ's death.

It's a rare and priceless find. I've read the book over and over again. It gains deeper significance each time. Every MJ diehard should have one. For a legend like MJ who was often judged and misunderstood, the book stretches beyond the surface and reveals treasures kept deep in MJ's big and soft heart.

To give you a glimpse of MJ's inner workings, here are some excerpts from "Dancing the Dream."

On behalf of all the MJ fans, happy birthday to our forever idol! Thank you for being born and changing our world with your music. Indeed it is a gift you were born with and how sad it is a gift you left us all too soon with.

'Dancing the dream'

Michael Jackson, in his own words:

"I can feel intense expression and strength coursing through creation. This world we live in is the cloister of the essence. Dancing is prayer, and so is the rwitnkling of an eye for the divine from us.

"On many an occasion, when I'm dancing, I've felt touched by something sacred. In those moments, I've felt my spirit soar and become one with everything that exists.

"I become the stars and the moon. I become the trees and the beloved. I become the voices and the rustle of guided. I become the rain and the dawn. I become the singer and the song.

"I become the hunters and the hunted. I keep on dancing and then, a richer, eternal dance of creation. The closer and revealing emerge into one wholeness of joy.

"I keep on dancing— and dancing, until there is only the dance."

Magical child

Once there was a child and he was free/Deep inside, he felt the laugh too/The north and play of summer's glow/He was not troubled by thoughts of heartache/Innocence was all he'd see

He knew his power was the power of God/To say to sun, they could send him cold/The power of innocence, of compassion, of light/He sensed the priest and cried/Because he knew the endless magic they sought to dismantle/The mysterious knew what's they could not handle

In endless ways they tried to destroy/His simple trust, his boundless joy/His invincible armor was a shield of blue/Nothing could touch it, no venom, no fear

The child remained/As a mute of grace/He wasn't confused/As one of us/Free/To Trek/To take chances, be frickled and played/While acting his part, is forever be stayed

Soon however rumors and lectures were told/Some were vehemence, others were bold/It became worse unfortunate, odious/With the rest of the world he shunned/on learners/Is he real? He is so strange/His unpredictable nature leaves us range/He guarders us in, is he straight?/What's his destiny? What's his fate?

And while they whispered and conspired/Through endless rumors to get him track/To kill his wonder, example him once/Bore his courage, but his fear/The child remained just simple, sincere

All he wanted was the mountain high/Color the clouds, paint the sky/Beyond those boundaries, he seemed to fly/In nature's scheme, seem to die

Don't stop this child, he's the father of man/Don't erase his way, he's part of the play/Let me that Child, let us see you/We're just forgotten, just for the clue

Inside your heart sits a love/Be aware his thought, he can hear/A

Inquirer columnist reelected to Golden Globes body

BEVERLY HILLS—Ruben V. Nepales, Inquirer's man in Los Angeles, was installed recently as a director of the Hollywood Foreign Press Association (HFPA) in a grants and installation luncheon held at the Beverly Hills Hotel.

Aleks Tobis, O'Reilly, HFPA president, introduced Nepales and the other officers and board members of the group that presents the Golden Globe Awards for film and television annually.

In the star-studded event, O'Reilly announced HFPA's record $1,370,500 in financial grants to entertainment-related charities, scholarship programs and nonprofit organizations. Each year, the international group of journalists holds one of the most widely watched awards shows on television, which has enabled HFPA to donate more than $13.5 million in the past 17 years to worthy causes, including donations to relief funds for victims of major disasters.

"I am proud of the philanthropic thrust of the organization," Nepales said of the grants which, this year, included a donation to the Coalition of Asian Pacifics in Entertainment, which advocates diversity and cross-cultural awareness by educating and promoting Asian Pacific Americans for key creative and leadership roles in the entertainment industry.

HFPA international philanthropic efforts have been organized by industry lobbyists, which gave the association its benefactor of the year award in 2008. This year's elected officers are Judge Gustavo Arce (vice president), Jorge Rabadán (executive secretary) and Ali Jaz (treasurer). Nepales was reelected for a third consecutive term to the board of directors, which includes Philbert Jack (chair), Susan Salazar, Yukiko Nakajima, Meher Tatna and Theo Kingma (alternates).

Nepales, the first Filipino member in the group's more than 60-year history, is an alumnus of the Faculty of Arts and Letters of the University of Santo Tomas (UST). He was one of the outstanding alumni who received the Inaugural Gawad Gintong Aninito in ceremonies held at UST in 2010. In his column that appears thrice weekly in the Inquirer, Nepales makes it a point to spotlight Filipino talents on the global entertainment stage.

A native of Calamba, Philippines, he lives in Los Angeles with wife Janet Sunas R. Nepales, also a journalist and UST alumnus. They also have one daughter, Jennifer Nicole and Isabella Angelica.

CHEER FACTOR

HAPPY: Nepales (L) with actors Jim Scarpino and Jessica Chastain at the recent Hollywood Foreign Press Association's grants and installation luncheon at the Beverly Hills Hotel.

POWER PLANT CINEMA

ONE DAY - R13 1:10, 3:50, 6:50, 9:15, 10:30	CARS 2 (DIGITAL 3D/RPX, DIGITAL, LOVE – OPENING) 12:05, 2:50, 5:10, 7:40, 10:00	FINAL DESTINATION 5 – R13 1:30, 3:25, 5:40, 7:50, 10:00
CARS 2	R 13 – SP 11:30, 2:15, 4:45, 7:15, 9:45	COLOMBIANA – R13 1:15, 3:35, 5:55, 8:15, 10:35	CARS 2 - SP 12:55, 3:40, 5:45, 8:05, 10:25

SCHEDULES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

EASTWOOD CINEMAS

1 ONE DAY
2 FINAL DESTINATION 5
3 CRAZY STUPID LOVE
4 COLOMBIANA
5 CARS 2
6 THE SMURFS
SONE DAY
FINAL DESTINATION

NOW SHOWING

FLAT-OUT BRILLIANT

"HILARIOUS AND HYSTERICAL!"
CRAZY STUPID LOVE

OPENS TOMORROW

NATURE'S MOST FEROCIOUS PREDATOR

SPEED: 60 km/h
BITE FORCE: 42,000 Newtons!
SENSES:
SIGHT - Perfect
SMELL - Perfect
HEARING - Perfect
APPETITE: Very Hungry.

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF
THE FINAL DESTINATION
SHARK NIGHT 3D

NOW SHOWING
"A WELL-CRAFTED TEAR-JERKER. ...BRING A BOX OF TISSUE OR BETTER, BRING TWO BOXES."

Capture this beautiful moment and never let it go.
One Day
BASED ON THE #1 INTERNATIONAL BESTSELLER

CATCH alternative pop band Mondaze Play, composed of siblings (from left) Mara (drums), Mariella (lead vocals, piano) and Alba (guitar) live on radio today at Magic 89.9's 9 p.m., 99.5 RT's 10:40 p.m., Mellow Touch 94.7's 2 p.m. and Jam 88.3's 3 p.m., as it promotes the single "Beautiful Star" and discusses the group's support of the Kids Helping Kids Through Music campaign in cooperation with Globe Hands Foundation. Log on to abunkerplay.com.ph.

STILL THE #1 MOVIE NATIONWIDE

"THE ACTION IS NON-STOP AND VIGOROUS, SO ARE THE VISUALS. FROM EPIC BATTLES WITH SAND CREATURES TO A STRUGGLE WITH A GIANT SEA SERPENT."

2ND WEEK

CONAN THE BARBARIAN

VENGEANCE IS BEAUTIFUL

ZOE SALDANA
COLOMBIANA

PREMAC LIQUID

R-13 NOW PLAYING!

Guaranteed HOT & ON TIME

or your PIZZA's FREE!*

Call 911-11-11 Metro Manila delivery

- Our new heat-sensitive HOT DOT sticker shows your pizza was delivered hot.
- When "HOT" appears on the dot, you know your pizza's really HOT.

Pizza Hut DELIVERY

Find us on PIZZA HUT PHILIPPINES @pizzahutphils pizzahut.com.ph

*Guarantee applies to a single receipt delivery transaction, maximum of 5 pizzas. Guaranteed time may be extended depending on the weather conditions or the safety of our delivery riders.